Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-142
Monday
25 July 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-142 *25 July 1988*

CONTENTS

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

Regional Agricultural Cooperation Meeting Opens 1
Solis Palma Speech *[Panama City]* 1
Nicaragua's Wheelock Speaks *[Panama City]* 2

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Southwest Africa Accord, Peace Prospects Viewed 5
Cape Verde Meeting on Quadripartite Talks Noted 5
Troop Withdrawal From Angola Not Yet Determined 5
Castro Inaugurates Contramaestre Hospital 6
Further on Inauguration 6
Talks With Hospital Workers 7
Tours Cardiology Center 8
Castro Visits Granma; Talks With Officials 9
Further on Visit of Cambodia's Heng Samrin 9
Tours Isle of Youth 9
Visits Biotechnology Center 10
At Hospital, Doctor's Office 10
Explanation for Erratic Gas Supply Urged 10
Sugar Union Calls on Members To Work 26 Jul 11

Dominican Republic

Foreign Exchange Controls To Begin 1 August 11
Trade Union Seeks Labor Secretary's Mediation 11

Haiti

Namphy Receives Development Advisers 11
Former Deputy Named Development Adviser 11
Mayor Announces Construction of Marketplace 12
Anniversary of Jean-Rabel Massacre Marked 12
Three Tried, Sentenced for Killing Officer 12
Tobacco Company Sales Drop, Exports Considered 13

MEXICO

Cardenas Calls for 15 Aug March Against Fraud *[EL DIA 21 Jul]* 14
Cardenas, PMS Leader on FDN, Elections *[UNOMASUNO 20 Jul]* 14
PAN Claims 'Proof' of Election Fraud *[THE NEWS 20 Jul]* 15
Police Say Killing of Reporter, Others 'Error' 15

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

Arias Agrees To Host Sandinist-Contra Talks *[ACAN]* 16

El Salvador

PDC, ARENA Deputies Want U.S. Envoy Expelled *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 16
Castillo Decries Nicaragua's 'Socialist' Status *[EL MUNDO 20 Jul]* 16
Foreign Minister on C.A. Presidents Meeting 16
Rosa Chavez on Leftist Leader's Return *[DPA]* 17
UNTS Rejects Coprefa Report of Demonstration 17
Defense Officials on Proposed Emergency Law *[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 23 Jul]* 18
Blandon on Protecting Civilian Defense Posts 18

Guatemala

3 Discharged for Coup Attempt Participation *[EL GRAFICO 21 Jul]* 19
Media Director Denies Closing News Segment *[PRENSA LIBRE 22 Jul]* 19
Body of Kidnapped Lawyer Found 22 Jul *[ACAN]* 19
Judge Released 19

Nicaragua

Ortega on Talks With Contras, Dukakis Remarks 20
Praises Dukakis Speech *[ACAN]* 20
Ramirez on Relations With U.S., LA PRENSA *[ACAN]* 21
Cesar on RN Organization, Possibility of Talks *[San Jose]* 21
Asks Arias To Host Talks *[ACAN]* 22
Southern Front Offers To Talk With Government *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 22
Appoints New Military Chief *[DPA]* 23
Wheelock on Bermudez RN Directorate Election *[ACAN]* 23
On U.S. Panama Policy *[Panama City TV]* 23
CIA 'Imposition' of Bermudez on Contras *[BARRICADA 21 Jul]* 24
Nandaime Protesters Turned Over to Authorities *[BARRICADA 21 Jul]* 24
Ortega's Anniversary Speech Criticized 25
Defense Ministry Reports 20-21 Jul Clashes 25

Panama

Reporter Arrested for Threat to State Security *[San Jose]* 26
Esquivel on Opposition Unity, Electoral Code 26
Labor Minister on Unemployment Situation *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 24 Jul]* 27

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Ministry Official on 'Economic Shock Plan' 28
Caridi Comments on Military; Decorates General 28
Costa Rican Foreign Minister Arrives 28
OAU Secretary General Visits Caputo 29
Italian Firm To Build Helicopters in Cordoba 29
Remote-Controlled Missile To Test in La Rioja *[LA PRENSA 22 Jul]* 29
Government Declares Gas Strike Illegal 30
Arrest of Chilean Leftists Discussed 30
Judge on Extradition 30
Federal Police Break Drug Trafficking Ring 30

Bolivia

World Bank Approves Bolivian Economic Program 31
Foreign Minister on Suarez Extradition *[Buenos Aires TELAM]* 31
Suarez Responds to Press 31
Deputy Says No Bail 32
Reaction To Arrest *[EFE]* 32

Brazil

Government To Resort to GATT on U.S. Sanctions *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 24 Jul]* 32
Sodre on U.S. Action *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 24 Jul]* 33
Accord With U.S. Expected 'Before September' *[O GLOBO 24 Jul]* 33
Aeronautics Minister on Elections, Candidates *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Jul]* 34
Government Unable To Continue Nuclear Programs *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 21 Jul]* 34
Controversial ICBM, Other Projects Viewed *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 21 Jul]* 34
Separation System Mechanism Under Study *[FOLHA DE SAO PAULO 21 Jul]* 35

Chile

Pinochet To Announce New Economic Measures 35
General Matthei on Plebiscite Date, Retirement 36
Exporters Comment on Possible U.S. Retaliation 36
Two More Alleged 'Terrorists' Arrested 37
Identities of Three Released 37

Colombia

Preparations for National Dialogue Under Way 37
Gomez Confirms Attendance 37
Government Presence Urged 37
Government To Participate *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 38
Barco Communique *[EL TIEMPO 22 Jul]* 38
13 Guerrillas Killed in Various Clashes 39
Rebel Suspect, 11 Others Die in Barrancabermeja 39
Army Kills 293 Rebels in 1st 6 Months of 1988 39
ELN Destroys Stretch of Oil Pipeline in Arauca *[EFE]* 39

Peru

Interview of Shining Path's Guzman Published *[EFE]* 39
Garcia Says Morote Acquittal 'Scandal' *[EFE]* 40
'Perverse' Economic 'Bondage' 40
Refinancing of Debt to USSR Reported 41
Foreign Minister on Arms Shipment, Terrorism *[EFE]* 41
Villanueva Meets Costa Rican Foreign Minister 41
Shining Path Kills 4 Soldiers, Wounds 9 *[EFE]* 41
Peruvian, Colombian Drug Gangs Clash; 11 Die *[EFE]* 42
Terrorists Disrupt Electric Power in Ayacucho *[EFE]* 42

Uruguay

Debt Increases $1 Billion From 1984 to 1987 *[EFE]* 43

Venezuela

Ousted Haitian President Manigat Arrives 43
Polish Ship With Weapons for Peru Detained *[EFE]* 43
Lusinchi Obtains 77-Percent Approval Rating 44
Education Minister, Defense Official Sworn In 44

Regional Agricultural Cooperation Meeting Opens

Solis Palma Speech

PA2207235688 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2202 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Speech by Manuel Solis Palma, minister in charge of the Panamanian Presidency, at the opening of the Fourth Special Meeting of the Regional Agricultural Cooperation Council, CORECA, held in the Portobelo Room of the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Ministers; Comptroller General; Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, president of the Fourth Special Meeting of the council of ministers; His Excellency Eduardo Pesqueira Olea, secretary of agriculture and water resources of Mexico and president of the World Food Council; chiefs of delegations; deputy ministers; Dr Reinaldo Perez, secretary of coordination of the Central American Regional Council [CORECA]; delegates; members of the honorable diplomatic corps; representatives of international organizations; special guests; ladies and gentlemen:

On behalf of the Panamanian people and government, I cordially welcome the participants to the Fourth Special Meeting of the Regional Agricultural Cooperation Council of Central America, Mexico, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. I would like to state that my country puts great stock in this event, the goal of which is to examine crucial matters for the present and future, not only in terms of the region's agricultural activity but also in terms of the security of the Latin American people.

The topic of food in Latin America, a region that has traditionally not only been self-sufficient in food but that has been a food exporter, has rapidly become one of great concern. The situation has become particularly acute in certain countries of the region, which are represented here in a dignified manner by the agriculture ministers and their principal advisers.

As an example of the food situation in this area of the world, allow me to say that in the period between 1981 and 1985, the balance of international food trade in our eight countries has shown a surplus of more than $1.4 billion. If from that amount we leave out coffee, tea, and cocoa, this surplus would become a net deficit reaching almost $550 million. In addition, during the same period, all countries represented here showed deficits in essential foodstuffs such as cereals, dairy products, and animal and vegetable oils, which are basic in the diet of our population.

This alarming reality, which, according to experts, denotes an increasing medium- and long-range tendency, prepares in some cases and reinforces in others the conditions to increase the region's dependency on agricultural products coming mainly from the United States. This could become an effective weapon of intervention and even aggression.

Therefore, the other main topic of this meeting should be the effect of foreign economic aggression on the development of the farming sector. This effect is now more than just a hypothesis; it has become a heavy reality in our country. The topic acquires a special dimension and demands your timely and profound discussion. The current Panamanian situation, the threats against its independence and very existence as a nation, the merciless and immoral U.S. economic and financial attack—unprecendented in our history—also affect the farming sector and the food industry.

The experience of Panama, where all sectors of our society, especially the most needy, are suffering from that very aggression, should be an example and an inspiration for all Latin American peoples to become aware of the dangers that surround them so they act very quickly to secure their food production, which is the base of their national independence.

Our country is facing a difficult situation. There has been a strong reduction in our agricultural credit facilities, and difficulties in obtaining supplies increased while food imports decreased. We have tried to solve those problems by promoting large movements of individual and community food production and by encouraging people to return to the countryside and produce their own food.

The challenge to become self-sufficient in food production, which the entire Latin American Continent is facing and which has obtained the sincere and responsible attention of the region's agricultural authorities and leaders—as this meeting demonstrates—has specific solutions, some of which I would like to share with you.

The efforts to improve agricultural production, based on an accelerated and dynamic modernization of this sector through all the mechanisms and instruments promoted by the various governments, international organizations, and private sectors, have been relatively successful in the last few years. We have also taken advantage of technological advancements, including genetics, mechanics, and farm equipment inventions. However, I believe it is essential that we also try to direct our peoples' consumption habits toward local, national, and regional production, which is better adapted to the natural conditions of our soil. In my opinion, education is the best instrument to make Latin American men and women appreciate the products of our soil, rivers, lakes, and seas, which are amazingly attractive and varied.

In that way, we will be fulfilling providence's will, which endowed us with the beautiful and varied geography that has caused the admiration, astonishment, and greed of so many people since colonial times.

Latin America has many natural resources and a fabulous production potential. The Latin American people are capable and willing to work. We all have weapons to face great challenges and to forge for ourselves a worthy, independent, and prosperous future.

In the farming sector, however, we have either diverted the essential resources for the development of that sector toward other sectors that needed priority attention, or we lacked the determination and the certainty to effectively and quickly attack the problem of agricultural production. We have not shown the energy and aggressiveness needed in the government, public, and private sectors to achieve self-sufficiency in Latin American food production.

Latin America has taken remarkable strides in the development of its agricultural and cattle sector and has made significant progress in recent decades.

The use of old production techniques has declined. Agricultural horizons have been expanded and modern techniques have spread and are even becoming general practice. The sectors outside the national and international economic circles are, once again, marginal in Latin America and will wind up disappearing. [sentence as heard]

All this is evidenced by the fact that agricultural production has increased rapidly over the past 25 years with an average growth rate of 3 percent per year. Consumption, however, has increased more rapidly. This fact poses a challenge to our ability to produce to supply fully our domestic market and also to produce for export.

I believe we will be able to overcome difficulties and build national societies that are stronger and freer from dangers and threats—such as those posed by food dependence—thanks to our will, our firm spirit of solidarity, and our efforts to strengthen integration.

This noble and lofty feeling of solidarity and independence supports the efforts of the Central American countries in their search for peace. These efforts have brought about happy results with the adoption, in January 1988, of the plan for immediate action by top Central American dignitaries. This plan proposes solutions from our own perspective.

Panama was especially pleased to have received this plan and expresses its interest in participating in the great task to integrate objectives and resources in line with the most cherished desires for progress, which our peoples and nations share. But this spirit of regional solidarity became a worldwide spirit when the special UN General Assembly adopted the special plan for economic cooperation for Central America last May.

For us, the fourth special CORECA meeting conforms with this spirit of solidarity and this spirit of integration of our countries' efforts in a matter that is highly strategic and of special interest and importance for our people's future.

I have high hopes that the results of this exchange of views and this mechanism of consultation and agreement at the sectorial level will truly help make the meeting of Central American vice presidents, to be held late this month, more productive.

Before concluding, I want to use this happy occasion to express the most vivid and warm sentiment of gratitude for the invaluable support offered by the Latin American states, members of SELA, which heard our report on the aggression Panama has been subjected to and warmly expressed their broad, generous, and fraternal support.

The patience and firmness with which Panamanians have faced the grave consequences of the aggression are basically due to our people's maturity but also to the solidaristic support of our brother countries of Latin America and other parts of the world, which have earned a special place in our hearts.

The crisis we are still experiencing has demanded great sacrifices from us in order to overcome it; however, it has also taught us great and positive lessons. It has strengthened our national personality and our natural disposition to bring closer the ties of friendship and cooperation with the region's sister nations. It has greatly increased the will for integration to forge, specifically and effectively, our people's destiny.

As I formally open the Fourth CORECA Meeting of Central America, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic, I want to wish you much success in your debates. I want to reiterate to you that Panama and its people are proud to be able to offer their hospitality and example of resistance and dignity in the face of foreign aggression. They are also proud to participate in a special manner in efforts to consolidate the integration of the peoples of Latin America, something which constitutes the foundation of its inevitable brotherly union.

Thank you. [applause]

Nicaragua's Wheelock Speaks

PA2307020988 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2149 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Speech by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock Roman, president of CORECA and minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform of Nicaragua, at the opening of the Fourth Special Meeting of CORECA held in the Portobelo Room of the Atlapa Convention Center in Panama City—live]

[Text] Mr President Manuel Solis Palma; Mr Eduardo Pesqueira, president of the World Food Council; Central American agriculture ministers, colleagues; leaders of international agricultural organizations; distinguished guests; ministers; Panamanian officials; distinguished representatives of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen:

This special meeting of CORECA ministers is taking place at a particularly important moment for our region and for the agricultural and livestock sector of our countries.

The Ninth International Conference of Agriculture Ministers that took place in Ottawa in August 1987 pointed to the factors that have placed the agricultural sector of our countries in a situation of crisis and provided general guidelines for a reactivation and revitalization of this sector.

The Declaration of Ottawa states in one of its most important paragraphs that the modernization and diversification of our agriculture must be, in the current and future framework of our economies, a central element for economic reactivation and development in our countries. The increasing productivity and broad distribution of goods that modernization would bring represent a firm basis for a new economic development option. The same declaration acknowledges that it is necessary for international conditions to change and, domestically, for general policy changes as well as changes in the agriculture sector to be made so that the new policies reflect support for the agriculture sector and secure, strong international cooperation, especially for the smaller and weaker countries.

At that meeting, the Inter-American Institute of Agricultural Sciences was asked to prepare, in cooperation with our countries and other international organizations, a joint strategic action plan to support the agricultural and livestock reactivation efforts and the economic development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The agriculture ministers and secretaries of Central America, Mexco, Panama, and the Dominican Republic held in Managua, from 20 to 22 April 1988, the Eighth CORECA Council of Ministers Meeting. On that occasion, we analyzed the situation of the agricultural sector in our region and discussed measures aimed at resolutely facing the problems affecting it.

The burdensome foreign debt, distortions and restrictions in the international commerce of agricultural products, the protectionist and subsidization policies of the developed countries, the loss of markets, the deterioration of exchange conditions, and other situations that were sufficiently explained at the Ottawa Conference were discussed with passion in terms of what these specific problems mean for our countries.

In Managua there was a reaffirmation of the idea that agriculture must become the basis for the strategic development of the area with emphasis on a growing modernization process and on the industrialization of our natural resources, especially agriculture. We called on the international community to support resolutely agricultural reactivation plans and programs decided upon and agreed to by our countries.

Within this framework, and especially after the Esquipulas meeting, various cooperation initiatives have evolved that concern Central America. One outstanding initiative is that of the EEC and also the special plan for cooperation with Central America drafted by the United Nations.

At meetings of agriculture ministers and deputy ministers, important contributions in the form of new ideas have been made. These initiatives have been presented to Central American vice presidents who have been meeting periodically to discuss this. Their next meeting will be in Guatemala on 28 and 29 July.

While these initiatives advance, the situation in the subregion has not evolved favorably. The agricultural crisis we have faced for some time now has worsened. Particularly adverse macroeconomic adjustments have been imposed on many of our countries. Far from improving the situation, these adjustments have had serious consequences and defects.

On the other hand, it is impossible to ignore that in our region, and particularty in some of our countries, we are withstanding various forms of foreign aggression. Among other objectives, which we are not going to list here, this aggression seeks to destroy our already weak abilities to produce food and improve our peoples' standards of living.

Therefore, it is important that the agricultural sector of our countries, which is destined to play such an important role in the regional economic reactivation, prepare an overall cooperation plan that is truly coherent within the framework of the cooperation program that is being prepared. Therefore, at the request of the Latin American agriculture ministers, the IICA [Inter-American Agricultural Cooperation Institute] has prepared a preliminary plan for a joint strategy for the agricultural reactivation of Central America and the Dominican Republic. This is an extremely important topic for us, and as such we will discuss it during this fourth special meeting.

This meeting has a sense of urgency, because we must learn about and present this document on joint strategy. The urgency arises from the interest we all have in the agriculture of the region and from our desire to include our criteria and voice our shared feelings in the next vice presidents' summit, to be held soon in Guatemala.

Multilateral cooperation and the area as a whole demand that we have regional outlooks conducive to producing programs that will increase international cooperation in order to respond to the structural obstacles that are hindering agricultural and forestry development. Therefore, at this fourth special meeting, we propose—among others—the following main objectives:

1. To make progress in defining the framework for strategic regional programs that seek to effectively modernize and diversify agriculture within the next few years.

2. To analyze and define the mechanism for carrying out the regional agricultural programs that will provide guidance, so the international organizations will assign the priorities we are establishing for agriculture in the Central American region.

3. To analyze the obstacles hindering agricultural reactivation and its capacity to contribute to the growth of the economies of the member countries.

We would like to express our satisfaction at the presence here of the Central American agriculture ministers. We would also like to express our gratitude for the acceptance of our invitation by international organizations, particularly SIECA [Secretariat of Central American Economic Integration], IICA, CORECA, and CIRSA [Inter-American Regional Committee Against Plant and Animal Diseases], which are all present here today.

We would like to thank the president of Panama, Dr Manuel Solis Palma, for his stimulating presence here and his special participation in this opening session, as well as the agricultural development minister of Panama, Darisnel Espino, for his efforts and willingness to host this important meeting in Panama. And naturally, to the people of Panama we want to express our gratitude for their welcome and fraternal solidarity.

Gentlemen, on behalf of the ministers of agriculture, deputy ministers, and delegates from the countries present here, thank you. [applause]

Cuba

Southwest Africa Accord, Peace Prospects Viewed

PA2307162788 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 88

["Point of View" commentary, read by Norberto Hernandez]

[Text] The publication of the principles for a negotiated solution to the conflict in southwestern Africa ensures that there may be an end not only to the aggressive actions carried out by the Pretoria regime against independent countries in the area, but also to the illegal racist presence in Namibia.

The first two paragraphs of the agreement signed by Angola, Cuba, and South Africa in New York state that the three parties must establish and recommend to the UN secretary general a date for compliance with UN Resolution No 435, which demands the withdrawal of South African troops and the independence of Namibia. Consequently, Angola and South Africa must take every possible measure to guarantee free and fair elections in Namibia, which should respect the people's will. For their part, Cuba and Angola, through a bilateral agreement, promise to withdraw their troops to the northern area and then to gradually withdraw Cuban internationalist contingents that cooperate in safeguarding Angolan integrity. These steps will be verified on site by the UN Security Council.

The signatories will also guarantee the inviolability of the borders; they must refrain from aggressive actions; they must refuse to support military actions against other parties; and they must allow verification of the agreements.

As can be seen, these elements constitute general principles that provide necessary conditions for the final settlement of a prolonged conflict, the origins of which lie in the continuous imperialist plans aimed at dominating the region.

On the other hand, it cannot be denied that if South Africa has in principle given up its illegal presence in Namibia, it is because of the heavy losses inflicted by the joint forces of Angola, Cuba, and the SWAPO—South-West African People's Organization—against the rascist troops and the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] in southern Angola.

The battle of Cuito Cuanavale, where South Africa suffered heavy losses, marked the beginning of the end of the rascist presence in southern Angola and opened up the road for the understanding of principles.

Cuban internationalism and the courage of the Angolan and Namibian fighters was a determining factor for Pretoria to accept Resolution No 435, whose enforcement has long been demanded by the international community.

Of course the agreement in New York is just the beginning of a solution, the details of which should be ironed out in future meetings. Clear steps should be taken so each side can achieve peace and guarantee the effective implementation of the agreement. The road is open, and if we judge the responsibility shown by Cuba and Angola at all times, peace lies in the attitude of South Africa and its Western allies, which have shown their arrogance on many occasions.

Cape Verde Meeting on Quadripartite Talks Noted

PA2407185488 Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Military representatives of Angola, Cuba, and South Africa have concluded a 2-day meeting on Sal Island, Cape Verde in which they exchanged viewpoints on the issues for the upcoming quadripartite meeting to find a solution to the conflict in southwestern Africa.

A U.S. official participated in the Cape Verde meeting. This country is serving as mediator in these talks. There have already been three rounds of talks, in London, Cairo, and New York.

In a communique issued at the end of the meeting on Sal Island, the participants announced that the topics discussed during the past 2 days will also be the main topics in quadripartite talks scheduled to be held in Geneva, Switzerland on 2 August. The Cape Verde Government was also thanked for its hospitality during the meeting.

Troop Withdrawal From Angola Not Yet Determined

FL2207180688 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos expressed his agreement with the principles for a peaceful solution to the problems of southwestern Africa which were approved at the quadripartite negotiations.

Dos Santos said that the results of these talks can be considered, in principle, a triumph for reason, political realism, and the idea that a state should not use military force to attain its goals.

We want UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence to be put into practice, said the Angolan head of state. He also said that during the negotiations among the representatives of Cuba, Angola, the United States and South Africa, the Cuban-Angolan delegation will continue to speak against Pretoria's

aggression and intervention in the internal affairs of Angola and its assistance to the counterrevolutionary bands of the UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

The preliminary agreements on this topic reached in New York have been extensively evaluated by all parties.

Yesterday, Carlos Aldana, secretary of the PCC Central Committee and chief of the Cuban delegation to the New York meeting, said in Havana that the timetable for the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola is yet to be determined. This depends on several aspects that need to be discussed, he said.

The next round of quadripartite talks will be held in Geneva on 2 August.

Castro Inaugurates Contramaestre Hospital

FL2207224388 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1932 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] During the inauguration this afternoon of the Contramaestre Training Hospital in Santiago de Cuba, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro emphasized our country's progress in the field of public health. He specifically referred to the progress achieved by Santiago de Cuba Province, which is hosting the main ceremony marking the 35th anniversary of the Moncada Barracks assault. The first party secretary and president of the Councils of State and Ministers stated that the 167 health projects inaugurated today in Santiago de Cuba are an example of the extraordinary efforts of the revolution in that field. With regard to this, he mentioned how two highly advanced techniques are already available to the Santiago de Cuba population: computerized tomography and extracorporeal litholapaxy, which cost millions of dollars.

Speaking at the Contramaestre Hospital, which will provide care for a population of 125,000, Fidel emphasized the significant fact that the three Santiago de Cuba municipalities with family doctors have an infant mortality rate of less than 10 per 1,000. In other words, it is a higher survival rate than in the United States with all its development. This gives an idea of the progress being made and of how life expectancy is increasing in our country, said the commander in chief. He also said that even Santiago de Cuba Province has a lower infant mortality rate than Havana City. Fidel also recalled the dramatic lack of attention given the area of public health before the triumph of the revolution.

Still in reference to the Contramaestre training hospital in Santiago de Cuba, which has been providing services since 1 November, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro praised the effort made there to rationalize the payroll, and he said that it represents a reduction in costs and an improvement in care. The first party secretary also emphasized that 92 percent of the workers in the center are also from the Contramaestre municipality. Fidel noted the hospital took too long to build. Construction began 12 years ago but because of errors, setbacks, and poor planning, among other problems, it wasn't until 1986 that it received the decisive thrust, as a result of a new style of work.

In another part of his speech upon inaugurating the Orlando Pantoja clinical-surgical general hospital in Contramaestre, Fidel referred to the high cost of medical care in the United States and in other developed capitalist countries. He summarized the various services of intensive therapy for children and adults, and other specializations. This hospital is a jewel, said the first secretary of the PCC Central Committee. He immediately added that the services offered in the new medical care center are available only to millionaires' children in rich capitalist countries. He said it was a great symbol having chosen this hospital (?for) the numerous inaugurations of health projects being held today in Santiago de Cuba.

After emphasizing the characteristics and the services that the Orlando Pantoja Hospital will provide for the population, the commander in chief said: On an occasion such as this event, in the region which surrounds us, it is important to recall a few passages of war. He gave details of some battles against the army of the tyranny during the days prior to the revolution. During the speech, he talked with a nurse and other residents from that zone and said: Those sacrifices were not in vain. He referred to everything we have already built and how much more we are building. No one would have been able to dream that we would have had a hospital such as this one; it is one of the best and most complete in the country.

Further on Inauguration

FL2307033688 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro today at noon inaugurated the Orlando Pantoja General Hospital in Contramaestre municipality. The hospital is one of the 167 health projects completed in Santiago de Cuba Province in salute to 26 July.

Esteban Lazo Hernandez and Roberto Damian Alfonso, first party secretaries of Santiago de Cuba and Granma, respectively, and other leaders, accompanied Fidel on a tour of the facilities of the modern care center, which he termed "a jewel". During the massive act, which was attended by almost 40,000 residents of that area, (Luis Arias) spoke on behalf of the construction workers of the hospital, valued at 20 million pesos. Dr (Luis Estruch), director of Santiago de Cuba's health sector, also spoke

to highlight the meaning of this modern hospital and the other 167 health projects which were simultaneously inaugurated today in the province.

[Begin (Estruch) recording] This hospital has 364 beds, and services such as intensive and (?intermediary) care units for adults and children, a modern surgical unit, hospitalization services for [word indistinct], a polyclinic, a stomatological clinic, a physical theraphy unit, a blood bank, and a modern unit for perinatal care.

To salute this 35th anniversary, the province has completed a large group of projects which includes the medical equipment factory, the plant for (?enteral) solutions, the heart center with 47 beds, the (Meya) hospital with 70 beds, the new San Luis Hospital with 106 beds, and the four perinatal units in the maternity hospitals, all of which will allow an increase in the quality of medical care for our population.

The new Saturnino Lora clinical-surgical training hospital has a large investment in construction and equipment exceeding 9 million pesos, of which over 70 percent is in foreign currency. This hospital will put at the service of the people modern computerized tomography equipment, the (?somatic) [word indistinct], the extracorporeal litholapaxy, two hyperbaric cameras, 514 modern medical equipment items, and a group of civil and non-medical works which (?include) a park, power plants, surgical rooms, and 344 beds and tables that constitute the first part of the modern furnishings this hospital will have when it is completed at the end of the year. [end recording]

Speaking at the main ceremony, our commander in chief referred to the important achievements the public health field has attained; he even made comparisons to very developed countries.

[Begin Castro recording] Nine out of every 10 children who used to die are saved today. The average life expectancy level is being raised. Already the average life expectancy of our country is among the highest in the world, it's among the highest [repeats himself]. The infant mortality rate is among the lowest. Just note what was said here. The three municipalities with family doctors have an infant mortality rate of less than 10 per 1,000. I can tell you that only the most developed countries in the world have that. This means that these three municipalities in our mountains have a survival rate for children higher than the rate for the United States, with all its power and riches. In these three rural municipalities of Santiago de Cuba which have medical doctors there is a lower infant mortality rate than in the United States. [end recording]

In other parts [words indistinct] upon inaugurating today the modern hospital in Contramaestre, the chief of the revolution recalled the unforgettable days in late December 1959 when the rebel columns under his command annihilated the tyranny's resistance in Palma Soriano and in (Bamfai de Maffo), very close to the village of Contramaestre.

[Begin Castro recording] If we had been told, back in those days I was just referring to, that one day, in this very same place, we were going to inaugurate a project such as this one, a hospital that could be termed one of the best in the country, among the most complete, I really think that not even the most optimistic persons would have believed it. Back then the residents of that small village of Contramaestre and of Maffo, and of America, while they dreamed about a lot of things, did not even dream about a hospital such as this one. [applause] That is why it is with legitimate pride that we have met with you to inaugurate this project. [end recording]

Talks With Hospital Workers

FL2307165888 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1324 GMT 23 Jul 88

["Conversation" held between President Fidel Castro and unidentified workers at the Orlando Pantoja Hospital in Contramaestre, Santiago de Cuba Province, on 22 July—recorded]

[Text] [Speaker] Ninety percent of the hospital's equipment is from the convertible currency area, from the [words indistinct] area.

[Castro] What do we have from Yugoslavia?

[Speaker] We have X-ray equipment from Yugoslavia. We also have some clinical laboratory equipment such as [words indistinct], dental equipment; the Yugodent modules. We have 11 dental chairs in the hospital. They have turned out to be pretty good.

[Castro] Especially the X-ray equipment, which is working well.

[Speaker] It works well.

[Castro] How many X-ray machines do you have?

[Speaker] We have two machines of (?500,000) amperes, a regular one, another one with tomography, and the other one of 800,000 amperes with a television camera.

[Castro] The two of them are Yugoslav?

[Speaker] Yugoslav. We have three portable ones.

[Castro] Are those Yugoslav?

[Speaker] No, those are Japanese.

[Castro] So the pediatric intensive care ward [words indistinct] requires other types of equipment. Well, but this hospital is one of the most complete ones in the country.

[Second speaker] We have three goals: to open a pediatric surgery room, a pain clinic, and a daycare psychiatric service.

[Castro] You do not have pediatric surgery services.

[Second speaker] No, but we are going to open one.

[Castro] How many surgery rooms do you have?

[Third speaker] Six surgery rooms, a cesarean section room....

[Castro, interrupting] Where is pediatric surgery performed now?

[Second speaker] It is being done in Palma Soriano and Santiago de Cuba—only in those two places.

[Castro] And you want to open one here.

[Second speaker] We are going to open one here.

[Castro] Do you have a pediatric surgeon here?

[Second speaker] We have one ready. We are organizing the surgical instruments and the bed reassignments to open the service.

[Castro] How many did you say they gave you, 100?

[Second speaker] Ninety—60 for doctors, 30 for what we have called the villa hotel for technicians who are here on a temporary basis, professors....

[Castro, interrupting] How many doctors are already here? Where are nurses from Santiago living?

[Second speaker] At the villa hotel. It a separate building.

[Castro] You have a villa for temporary people.

[Second speaker] Yes.

[Castro] Sixty apartments for doctors.

[Second speaker] For doctors and professionals. Sixty-four to be exact.

[Castro] And where are nurses staying? Somewhere else? Are there other places or are they in the same place?

[Second speaker] No. All temporary technicians stay at the villa hotel.

[Third speaker] There are three buildings with 32 apartments—two buildings for doctors and one which is considered a villa hotel.

[Castro] How many nurses from Santiago work here?

[Second speaker] There are 68 nurses who rotate on a temporary basis.

[Castro] How many do you have from Contramaestre?

[Second speaker] Ninety-two percent of the....

[Castro, interrupting] No, of nurses.

[Third speaker] One hundred and thirty six nurses.

[Castro] Are they from this area? Where do they sleep? Because they may be from Contramaestre but they may be from the mountains of Contramaestre.

[Second speaker] They sleep here in....

[Third speaker, interrupting] There is a group which is not from the city. They are from Los Pozos, from....

[Castro, interrupting] Do you have a figure? Give me the numbers for nurses who are from the city.

[Third speaker] Most of them are from the city. Over 60 percent.

[Second speaker] We have the medical professors from the province rotating here every month. They are our best specialists. They help the young ones by offering their experiences.

Tours Cardiology Center

FL2307184288 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 1802 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro toured the new cardiology center of the Saturnino Lora clinical-surgical provincial hospital today around noon as part of the program of visits and inaugurations he has been carrying out in Santiago de Cuba Province since yesterday. The modernization of the hospital and equipment cost some 8 million pesos. It now offers such services as computerized axial tomography equipment, extracorporeal litholapaxy, and semi-hyperbaric chambers to serve the eastern provinces.

The top leader of the revolution had previously visited the Retomed—which stands for revolution in all areas of medicine—medical equipment factory.

As part of this morning's tour, Fidel also visited the Santiago de Cuba hydroponic field and inaugurated the new (?five), a cloverleaf which accesses the city from the national highway.

Castro Visits Granma; Talks With Officials

FL2307135688 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has visited Granma Province, alternate site [subsede] of the 26 July festivities, only days away from the 35th anniversary of the assaults on the Moncada and Carlos Manuel de Cespedes Barracks.

The top Cuban leader arrived at the Carlos Manuel de Cespedes airport in Bayamo at 1000 on Friday. He was received by leaders of all the Granma Province organs headed by Roberto Damian Alfonso, first party secretary in the province. During his 1-hour stay in the Granma capital, Fidel talked with municipal and provincial officials from all sectors and asked in particular about the construction of dams. He was briefed on the Cautillo reservoir, which will be able to hold 84 million cubic meters of water; on the Corojo, whose capacity will be 96 million; and Cauto del Paso, whose construction will begin this year to hold the waters of Cuba's longest river.

[Begin Castro recording] [Words indistinct] be the alternate site, cohosting, just like the Olympic Games. [laughter] Cohosting the 26 July celebrations [words indistinct] alternate site. We have just had the meeting of the National Assembly of the People's Government which assessed the situation in the provinces. The prospects are quite encouraging. The comrades from Santiago were explaining what they did this year. You also spoke about some of the things you are doing. [words indistinct], the comrades from Camaguey, Pinar del Rio. Sancti Spiritus Province suffered the flooding. It can be seen [words indistinct] this period when we have undertaken to correct the mistakes that had been committed, the negative tendencies.

Unfortunately, [words indistinct] It would take too long to talk about this, but they have been manifest, among other things, in some projects under construction. The (Coro) dam was going at a pace that would have taken 21 years to complete. Twenty-one years of buying equipment, resources [words indistinct] labor force without getting anything in return. [Words indistinct] finish the (Coro) dam soon. As you can see, we are going to build the Cautillo dam in 2 and ½ years at the most. [end recording]

Further on Visit of Cambodia's Heng Samrin

FL2107184588 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro Ruz, first secretary of the PCC and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has conferred the Jose Marti Order upon Heng Samrin, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Kampuchean People's Revolutionary Party [KPRP], who is on an official visit to our country.

The solemn ceremony took place at the Palace of the Revolution and was attended by leaders of the Cuban party and government, members of the Cambodian delegation, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited in Cuba.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] You, Comrade Heng Samrin, of peasant origin and with an outstanding history in the definite liberation of your people, have successfully carried out your highest responsibilities in the leadership of the party of the Cambodian Government. The Jose Marti Order, conferred by the Council of State of the Republic of Cuba, recognizes the important role you have played in the struggle for independence and national reconstruction, [words indistinct] beloved by the Cuban revolution. The order will be conveyed by Marti's most outstanding disciple, our commander in chief, Fidel Castro. [applause]

[Heng Samrin in vernacular with simultaneous translation into Spanish] This gesture is a new incentive for me and reflects in a very obvious manner the feelings that unite the parties, governments, and peoples of our two countries. We are separated by a great geographical distance but we are united by the ties of love for liberty and peace. Today we appear [word indistinct] in the struggle against common enemies, such as imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and reaction.

May the relations of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between Cambodia and Cuba develop and be eternal. [applause] [end recording]

Tours Isle of Youth

FL2107195588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] Heng Samrin, secretary general of the KPRP and chairman of the country's Council of State, is visiting Isle of Youth at this time. Heng Samrin arrived on Isle of Youth at 0930. Armando Manresa Gonzalez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in the territory, welcomed him along with representatives of Isle of Youth people who were at the airport. Jose Ramon Fernandez, alternate member of the PCC Central Committee Politburo, and Dr Melba Hernandez, heroine of the Moncada, accompanied the Cambodian delegation.

After his arrival, the Cambodian head of state visited the Modelo Prison and toured the places where those who assaulted the Moncada Barracks were imprisoned on 13 October, 35 years ago. Heng Samrin is now meeting with Isle of Youth political leaders.

A visit to Valles de Picadura livestock breeding farm in Havana Province is scheduled for this afternoon.

Visits Biotechnology Center

FL2207193288 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Heng Samrin, secretary general of the KPRP Central Committee and chairman of the People's Republic of Kampuchea [PRK] Council of State, this morning visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center.

He was accompanied to the scientific institution by Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee, and the official Cambodian delegation. Heng Samrin was received by Comrade Manuel Limonta, director of the center, who briefed the Cambodian leader on the work force of the institute as well as its technical structure, divided into areas of basic research and production of proteins and enzymes.

During his visit, the Cambodian official received a detailed report on the goals of the work in the area of genetic engineering and molecular biology, as well the utilization of its products in the manufacture of medications and reagents for agriculture and industry.

Limonta explained during the tour that this center, since its founding in 1983, has been able to produce 10 new proteins of practical use and this has turned the center into the pioneer of Latin America in attaining positive results in the area of molecular biology.

Minutes before departing the institute, Heng Samrin signed the guest book, expressing his people's recognition and admiration of the scientific collective. He also presented Comrade Limonta with an ebony carving as a momento of his visit to the institute.

At Hospital, Doctor's Office

FL2307151088 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Heng Samrin, secretary general of the KPRP and chairman of the PRK Council of State, today visited the Hermanos Ameijeiras Clinical-Surgical Hospital in Havana. The distinguished visitor and his delegation were accompanied by Jose Ramon Balaguer, secretary of the PCC Central Committee. Dr Hector Rodriguez Silva, deputy director of the Hermanos Ameijeiras Hospital, received the Cambodian leader and briefed him on the characteristics of some of the hospital's areas.

Inaugurated in 1982 at a cost of more than 60 million pesos, the modern hospital has 950 beds and is an example of our country's public health development. Among the areas visited by the Cambodian delegation were the pediatrics and general medicine wards, the room housing the electronic microscope for the diagnosis of various diseases, and the magnetic resonance room.

Dr Rodriguez Silva explained that all specialties exist in the hospital and that it fulfills many functions: medicine, teaching, research, and post-graduate training.

The Cambodian leader signed the visitors' book and presented the hospital with a picture of the Angkor Wat temple.

Another place visited by the Cambodian leader was the family doctor/nurse office-home in Los Pinos, Arroyo Naranjo municipality. Heng Samrin learned of the benefits this new system of primary health care offers to the public. The area, with one of the highest birth rates in the capital, has an infant mortality rate of 12.6. The death rate for new mothers stands at zero. The Los Pinos instructional polyclinic services a large population and has 19 recently built doctor's offices, most of which are atypical.

[Begin recording of Heng Samrin in vernacular, fading into Spanish translation] Our delegation has had the great honor of observing the scientific-technical development, all that has been achieved here in Cuba during these years. It admires the heroism of the Cuban people. [end recording]

Explanation for Erratic Gas Supply Urged

FL2207031288 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2310 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Report by Juan Hernandez Diaz, director of the "Exclusivo" Program]

[Text] For some time now, to put it clearly, irregularity has been observed in the gas supply. You cannot get gas wherever you want; only in certain places were it is possible.

If there are problems in the refinery or in the distribution of gas, the responsible enterprises should explain the reasons for these irregularities. It's no secret to anyone that our currency availability this year is half of what we had 2 years ago. The reasons are known: The devaluation of the dollar, which has raised the value of the currency from capitalist countries we import from; the prolonged drought which fortunately ended this year after affecting us over a [words indistinct]; and the prolonged drop in sugar prices, which also has now fortunately changed. Another factor which explains our decrease in foreign currency has been the drop in oil prices, which has decreased what we earned from the sale of the oil we saved, and continue saving, with efforts directed toward our consumption.

A revolutionary and aware nation such as ours understands perfectly the meaning of an economic blockade which lasts over a quarter of a century. The objective

reasons which aggravate the economic and service problems are perfectly understood. However, if there is no explanation whatsoever, if we don't know, like in this matter of gas, if there is a shortage due to problems which are beyond our control or if it's due to poor work, lack of (?discipline), if there is no rational explanation, it gives cause for all sorts of interpretations. Furthermore, it needlessly creates (?discontent), not needlessly, but because of poor work. I have heard the blame being put on the administrators who do not foresee things, on the gas station operators (pisteros) who do not report it, on the [word indistinct] who no longer work there.

Why aren't our broadcasting (?means) used to explain things and avoid (?discontent) and speculations? The nation has the right to be informed when there are problems of any kind. Our nation perfectly understands those things which do not have a solution because they are beyond our control. But it is necessary that deficiencies due to poor management, lack of discipline, irresponsibility, disorganization, or other evils be rectified and necessary measures taken.

Sugar Union Calls on Members To Work 26 Jul

FL1907161088 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Text] The National Trade Union of Sugar Industry Workers has called on its more than 4,000 members to adopt new and effective measures to ensure planting, weeding, and fertilization, as well as other sugarcane agricultural activities.

The document bases its note on the statements made by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro at the eight plenum of the PCC Central Committee in reference to the pressing need to avert the effects of the rain in the planting and weeding of our primary industry, sugarcane.

Trade union organizations have called on all their workers to remain in the fields during the holiday marking the 35th anniversary of the assault on the Moncada Barracks and they said that the best tribute to those who fell in that action should come from the sugarcane fields.

Dominican Republic

Foreign Exchange Controls To Begin 1 August

FL2307145288 Bonaire Trans World Radio in English 1300 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] The Dominican Republic has imposed foreign exchange controls to check raising inflation. An order published yesterday by the Dominican Government also says that the Central Bank will send exchange rates for the peso. The controls take effect August 1st.

Trade Union Seeks Labor Secretary's Mediation

FL2007152488 Santo Domingo Cadena Brea Pena in Spanish 0930 GMT 20 Jul 88

[Text] A trade union has called for the mediation of Labor Secretary Jose Carlos Isaias in the conflict between the Electro-Mechanical Engineering Enterprise, Einca, and the Dominican Union of Solderers. The General Central Organization of Workers, CGT, said that the conflict has halted repairs in the 4 Timbeque plants which generate 12,500 kw of power. The trade union organization says the repairs are paralyzed because the Einca refuses to sign a contract with the technicians doing the work at the plants. The CGT says that the enterprise, with its attitude against the solderers union, is boycotting the country's development in terms of energy. This makes it necessary for the labor secretary to intervene in the labor conflict, says the CGT.

Haiti

Namphy Receives Development Advisers

FL2207163688 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] The Ministry of Information and Coordination has sent us a press release reporting that Lieutenant General Henri Namphy, head of the military government, received the development advisers for the Departments of the North, West, and South on Tuesday, 19 July. On Wednesday, 20 July, it was the turn of the advisers for the Central Plateau, Northeastern Haiti, and Grande Anse. Yesterday, Thursday, President Namphy received the advisers for the Departments of the Artibonite, the Southeast, and the Northwest.

These meetings are in line with the message of 15 July 1988 in which the head of the military government announced the creation of a national office for the coordination of micro-projects, a truly brand new strategy whose goal is to improve the living conditions of our rural and suburban masses.

That was a press release from the Ministry of Information and Coordination.

Former Deputy Named Development Adviser

FL2207164488 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Report by correspondent Max A. Metelus]

[Excerpt] According to a letter dated 15 July 1988, General Henri Namphy has appointed Deus Jean-Francois as development adviser for Petit-Goave and Grand Goave. Deus Jean-Francois is the former deputy for Petit Goave and Grand Goave. He represented the MDN [Mobilization for National Development] in the Chamber of Deputies dissolved by General Namphy following the 19-20 June coup d'etat.

We tried to meet with Deus Jean-Francois to find out what he is going to do to facilitate development in Petit-Goave and Grand Goave. Deputy Jean-Francois told us he cannot say anything about this for the time being. [passage omitted]

Mayor Announces Construction of Marketplace
FL2207145988 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Mayor Franck Romain made an important statement yesterday morning at the Port-au-Prince city hall regarding the construction of the Croix des Bossales marketplace, which will begin soon.

Following a meeting with journalists, Romain walked to the Croix des Bossales marketplace to again familiarize himself with the area and to announce to all the vendors that the marketplace will be rebuilt for them soon. [passage omitted]

[Begin Romain recording] I am making this visit today because I promised the vendors I would come by to see them, as I always do—I always inspect the Croix des Bossales marketplace. I inspect by area, but today there are many of them awaiting me. Today's visit has a special objective: to actually launch the construction of the marketplace.

I said in my inaugural speech that I was counting on the population's help and participation in the work we are going to do. [passage omitted] Since the vendors, who invited me, told me that they would join in with us to build the marketplace, I am going to visit them in the marketplace today and take a look at it. [passage omitted] [end recording]

When Mr Romain arrived at the marketplace, everyone was happy to hear this news. All the vendors applauded. [passage omitted]

Anniversary of Jean-Rabel Massacre Marked
FL2207223188 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1100 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the Jean-Rabel massacre, in which more than 200 small peasant farmers lost their lives, various national and international organizations have sent messages of solidarity to the committee for solidarity with the small peasant farmers, which is organizing the commemoration of this anniversary.

In their notes, they condemn the sectors that organized the massacre and express their solidarity with all the peasant organizations that are struggling for improved living conditions and respect for themselves and basic rights in Haiti.

In an interview, Father Reynald Clerisme, member of this solidarity committee, condemned the massacre, which he feels is a big blow against the struggle of the small peasant farmers for a better life. Father Clerisme feels that this shows clearly that the bigshots and the macoute sector wish no good at all to the small, poor peasant farmers, who carry most of the load of exploitation and humiliation in the society.

Father Clerisme deeply regrets that the courts did nothing to punish the guilty. Regarding the situation of the small peasant farmers, there is misfortune hanging over the heads of all the small peasant farmers in the northwest and in almost all of Haiti, where the peasants are being prevented from organizing and where they are frequently being threatened and warned not to assemble. This situation is one of the reasons preventing the solidarity committee from commemorating this 1st anniversary the way it would like to do. [passage omitted]

Three Tried, Sentenced for Killing Officer
FL2007213688 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1830 GMT 19 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Today is the second day of criminal trials in Port-au-Prince. The case of (Eddy Moyse), (Seneque Jean-Louis), and (Cador Deresil) was heard today. They are accused of murdering Lieutenant (Pierre Ajax Raymond), who was killed on the night of 5 February 1987 in Mariani. They are also accused of the attempted murder of soldier-detective (Joseph Danus) and of the armed robbery of Mrs (Ulrick Saint-Hilaire). [passage omitted]

We also noted the presence of more than a dozen green-clad military, Uzis in hand, and of policemen from the "Cafeteria" [police post on Grand Rue], guarding the accused.

At the opening of the session, lawyer (Wisner Pierre-Louis) asked that the trial be in Creole, because one of his clients does not understand French. However, magistrate Raymond Jules said trials have always been conducted in French. This gave rise to much protest from the general public, which began yelling "Creole, Creole" inside the courtroom. [passage omitted]

The names of Yves and (Karl) Auguste also came up. It was stated that (?both these men) used to hold political meetings with (Philippe Maurice), who died after a clash with police at the hospital in Gonaives. These men were accused of being terrorists. However, Yves and (Karl) Auguste were released in May of 1987, because no charges were brought against them.

According to the charges, these four men stole several thousand dollars from a merchant, Mrs (Saint-Hilaire), who immediately notified the police. On 5 February 1987, the police were chasing these men and the men opened fire. A Criminal Investigations Department sublieutenant was killed and another wounded.

The police also found the men's car in Gonaives, where they were trying to get (Philippe Maurice), who was wounded, to the hospital. The latter subsequently died in the hospiaal. There was a heavy exchange of fire between these two groups on that day.

The other three—(Eddy Moyse), (Cador Deresil), and (Seneque Jean-Louis)—were mistreated in prison and they went on a hunger strike on 5 November 1987 at the national penitentiary, to demand that they be brought to trial. [passage omitted] [Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French at 1600 GMT on 20 July, in a similar report, adds that the three men "have been sentenced to 3 years' imprisonment"]

Tobacco Company Sales Drop, Exports Considered
FL2107221488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1300 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] The Comme Il Faut tobacco company has been operating in Port-au-Prince, Haiti for the last 61 years, since 1927. Despite the company's age, it has remained young. It has a dynamic staff that has been working in luxurious new premises located in Tabarre for about a year now. The premises cost approximately $600,000 and can be considered one of the most imposing industrial buildings in Haiti.

We met with the administrative director, Mr Lamothe, and the financial director, Mr Leslie Gauthier, who told us that the company puts out a high-quality product.

When we questioned him about the problems imported cigarettes might cause Comme Il Faut here in Haiti, he said the company's sales had dropped considerably—anywhere between 10 and 15 percent—but they are making an effort to set up a kind of system that reaches into the farthest corners of Haiti.

Regarding exporting of cigarettes, the company is going to set up structures that will allow them to conquer the international market—that is, to export a cigarette that will sell well in foreign countries.

Cardenas Calls for 15 Aug March Against Fraud

PA2407140688 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 21 Jul 88 p 6

[Report by Jose Luis Uribe]

[Excerpts] Chilpancingo, Guerrero, 20 Jul—Today Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, the National Democratic Front presidential candidate, said here that the first large nationwide mobilization in defense of votes will take place on 15 August. Cardenas said the struggle against "election fraud" must be peaceful and not violate any laws or the Constitution. [passage omitted]

According to Cardenas, it was in Guerrero State where the fraud was the worst. "It was here where rights and formalities were violated in the most shameless way. The real results are not listed in the official reports," he said. [passage omitted]

He asked people not to do anything that would violate the law. Our fundamental task, he said, is to become organized, to develop our committees, and to incorporate new political forces to show that there are increasingly more Mexicans ready to defend the will of the people and to reject any trampling of the sovereign will of Mexicans. [passage omitted]

Cardenas, PMS Leader on FDN, Elections

PA2207164388 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 20 Jul 88 pp 1, 7

[Article by Raul Correa E.: "Cuauhtemoc Will Not Form New Political Party"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday Cuauhtemoc Cardenas said that he would not form a new political party because, he said, at this time "we cannot be distracted by the creation of a party different from those already participating in the National Democratic Front [FDN] until the main problem—getting respect for the people's will—is resolved." Nevertheless, the FDN presidential candidate said that he favors broadening opportunities for coordinated efforts and for the reconciliation of all patriotic forces that believe that the situation in the country must change.

During a lecture to teachers, students, and Isidro Fabela neighborhood residents at the National School of Anthropology and History, Cardenas Solorzano explained that creating a new party, as some sectors are demanding, must be the result of a thorough analysis, of dialogue, and of an exchange of views at the national level with all groups that have participated in this effort and that are not militants: "It is not a simple decision, and it cannot be a personal decision."

At the 40-minute lecture, the son of General Lazaro Cardenas said that he will continue struggling: "We are determined not to give up; we will not end our struggle; we will not exchange triumphs for defeats. We have the moral authority to refuse to recognize any authority that has assumed power through electoral fraud."

At the crowded auditorium, the former Michoacan governor said that the organizations supporting him are willing to reach an understanding. "We have made appeals for reconciliation and coordination, but this should not be at the expense of compromising the people's will. We will unite with the patriotic forces seeking to change the situation in the country; important decisions will no longer be made abroad. We cannot continue national development if the means of freedom of expression and democratic participation are closed to us, if wealth is increasingly concentrated among the few, and if corruption increases."

Cardenas urged all his followers in this struggle to defend the people's will and to abstain from occupying municipal buildings and public offices. He asserted: "We are not sending people off on adventures; we must act carefully and responsibly to avoid provoking government forces."

In his impromtu remarks, Cardenas criticized the congratulations sent by several heads of state and leaders from other countries for the "alleged Carlos Salinas de Gortari triumph." In so doing, he rejected all foreign interference in Mexican affairs, particularly when unofficial election results are regarded as official. [passage omitted]

Cardenas clearly repudiated conflicts with government forces, proposing instead that political conflicts be resolved through reasoning and the search for understanding.

He explained to those attending the lecture that this does not mean a step backward in the people's struggle or in gaining complete respect for the people's will. He added that he is seeking more legislative seats. "We must use all possible means to ensure that legally obtained triumphs are recognized and, particularly, that the government admits that we triumphed in the presidential elections."

PMS [Mexican Socialist Party] Secretary General Gilberto Rincon also addressed those who attended the meeting and pointed out that the government is not so concerned about legalities but about rearranging [recomponer] antigovernment forces. Rincon added that the movement Cardenas heads should continue being a national movement and that the country's right-wing sector is not the same as before. Today our judgments on citizens' current political positions cannot be based on what they were last year. The left-wing itself is not the same as it was 1 year ago. The sectors searching for democracy have become the majority. This movement transcends the prerogatives of a single political party. Therefore, we are obligated to join the movement as another group involved in this process, which has returned to the people their hope for happiness, Rincon said.

Rincon Gallardo added that this new development cannot be detached from developments that occurred in 1938, 1958, and 1968. "However, each step is new, and all of us are united for the same cause: democracy and respect for the law. Students, peasants, businessmen, religious sectors, and even people from the public administration sector, the police, and the Army have joined this struggle."

The PMS secretary general believes that this is one of the clearest signs that Miguel de la Madrid's administration and the Salinas de Gortari group are sunk in a very deep crisis. Both the administration and Salinas de Gortari are primarily concerned that the legality of the elections is not probed, because they surpassed "all limits" in perpetrating fraud. [passage omitted]

PAN Claims 'Proof' of Election Fraud
PA2207142188 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 20 Jul 88 p 8

[Article by Anne Doremus: "PAN Shows Election Fraud 'Proof'"]

[Text] National Action Party (PAN) leaders from the State of Mexico said Tuesday they have ample proof their candidates won in seven of the state's districts and not solely in the four recognized by the Federal Electoral Commission.

Electoral acts confirm PAN not only triumphed in districts 6, 14, 18, and 33, but also in districts 7, 23, and 9, said Javier Paz Sarza, PAN state committee president.

Paz Sarza said at a press conference that the official Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) was responsible for numerous electoral irregularities in the State of Mexico, including the discarding of ballots favoring PAN candidates. He showed reporters a bag of such ballots which he said were found in a vacant lot in the seventh electoral district.

Paz Sarza also accused the government of falsifying electoral "actas" (or official reports), in the 12th district, where he claimed the party defeated the PRI by more than 30,000 votes. He said, for example, that in voting booth number 2, PAN garnered 174 votes against PRI's 171; but the electoral report was changed to make it appear PRI obtained 810 votes and PAN 18.

He said PAN also has evidence proving that it's senatorial candidates, Almado Olvera Castillo and Hector Valenzuela Velasquez, also won the elections, and as a result, PAN continues to be the most powerful political force in the State of Mexico.

Paz Sarza said the PAN won in the 19th district by over 300 votes.

He also noted that there are 4.3 million registered voters in the State of Mexico, and that only 1.9 million were said to have voted.

"Which is totally ridiculous because we (PAN) witnessed the enthusiastic participation of the people in the elections," he said.

Hector Valenzuela Velasquez, meanwhile, PAN senatorial candidate, charged that votes for the election of president were also inflated. In practically all of the state's 34 districts, votes for the election of the president exceeded those for the election of senators and deputies by between 15 and 10 percent, "which makes no sense," he said.

Valenzuela Velasquez also questioned the veracity of the large winnings in some districts of "parastatal" parties, which he said included the Popular Socialist Party (PPS), the Authentic Party of the Mexican Revolution (PARM), and the Cardenist Front. He said, for example, that in the third district the PPS won 32,000 votes, the PRI 20,000, and the PAN 7,000.

Police Say Killing of Reporter, Others 'Error'
PA2407200388 Mexico City XEW Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Federal Judicial Police officers in Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, killed a reporter and two of her companions whom the police said they confused with drug traffickers. Televisa correspondent Sergio Belmonte has a report:

[Begin Belmonte recording] Due to a regrettable error, Federal Judicial Police officers machine-gunned Ciudad Juarez television reporter Linda Bejarano Leon, her mother-in-law Lucrecia Martinez de Gomez, and their driver Carlos Alfonso Garcia. The incident occurred yesterday morning when the police officers were chasing a vehicle in which alleged drug traffickers were carrying a shipment of cocaine.

Upon entering the city, the police confused the young journalist's vehicle with that of the drug traffickers and opened fire when the driver did not obey the signal to stop. The only survivor of this incident was Bejarano's husband, Manuel Gomez Martinez.

This incident was reported to the attorney general, who ordered the arrest of the police officers involved. The officers have been charged with manslaughter.

A few hours after the incident, the municipal police located the drug traffickers vehicle. The car had several bullet holes. The police officers found 38 kg of cocaine inside the trunk of the vehicle. [end recording]

Costa Rica

Arias Agrees To Host Sandinist-Contra Talks

PA2407164888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1554 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Excerpt] San Jose, 24 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—President Oscar Arias has agreed to have Costa Rica host a new meeting between the Nicaraguan Government and the "contras," as was requested by a rebel representative, an official source reported today.

The request was made by Alfredo Cesar, one of the seven members of the RN [Nicaraguan Resistance] Directorate, because the conditions do not exist in Managua, where three rounds of talks were held, to continue the talks.

Cesar met for more than 2 hours with President Arias at Arias' home on Saturday.

Information Minister Guideo Fernandez Saborio said that in addition to agreeing to have Costa Rica host the meeting, Arias pledged to provide the facilities and necessary support to secure a definitive cease-fire in Nicaragua.

Cesar told ACAN-EFE on Saturday that they have not yet contacted the Nicaraguan Government about these new talks, but he said that in view of the upcoming "diplomatic moves," they want to make it clear that they are willing to return to the negotiating table. [passage omitted]

El Salvador

PDC, ARENA Deputies Want U.S. Envoy Expelled

PA2207141288 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 1207 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] San Salvador, 21 Jul (REUTER)—Today right-wing deputies and members of the ruling Christian Democratic Party (PDC) requested at congress that U.S. Ambassador Edwin Corr, whom they accuse of intervening in the country's internal affairs, be declared persona non grata.

The deputies said that the diplomat, whose term will soon end, should not get involved in the affairs of political parties.

"He should be respectful," said Major Roberto D'Aubuisson, retired, a deputy for the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) and a rightist, adding that "there is no reason for him to discuss things that happen within our parties."

D'Aubuisson was referring to Ambassador Corr's statements in a recent speech at the American Chamber of Commerce, in which he criticized ARENA and PDC sectors.

When asked about the matter this afternoon, a U.S. Embassy spokesman refused to comment on the issue.

Castillo Decries Nicaragua's 'Socialist' Status

PA2207170088 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 20 Jul 88 p 4

[Excerpts] Yesterday Vice President Rodolfo Antonio Castillo Claramount said that the Sandinists' decision to proclaim Nicaragua a socialist and internationalist state eliminates every possibility of finding a political solution to the serious Central American conflict.

Castillo Claramount was interviewed by newsmen after a meeting between the government and the opposition political parties—except for the Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA), which did not attend the meeting—to draft a joint proposal for presentation to the insurgents.

"This Sandinist decision, in effect, eliminates the possibility of an understanding, because the differences are no longer just about what subjects need to be dealt with; there are now differing conceptual views of those subjects, especially regarding the ethical concept of the state's role as the guarantor of social coexistence," the vice president said. [passage omitted]

The vice president harshly accused the Sandinists of taking the same steps as Cuba, led by Commander Fidel Castro, did after the overthrow of dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959. There is no longer any hope of solving the serious Central American crisis, he said.

He said the summit meeting of Central American presidents, scheduled for late August, is "hanging in the balance," since the other governments must take into account the decision made by Daniel Ortega's government. [passage omitted]

Castillo Claramount, in response to questions from newsmen, reiterated that one can no longer believe in the Sandinists' promises, because in declaring themselves to be socialists and internationalists, they have made a complete turnaround. There is now a threat of increased destabilization of the Central American region, he added.

On the subject of the Christian Democratic government's meeting with the opposition politicians, the official insisted that the FMLN and FDR rebels must become incorporated into civilian life, because the armed struggle is illegitimate. "Violence has never been and will never be any kind of solution to the country's problems or to society's political, social, or economic problems," the vice president said. He added: "No peace plan can exist outside the constitutional framework." [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister on C.A. Presidents Meeting

PA2307171388 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Report by Regina Cana on statement by Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta on 22 July—place not given]

[Text] [Cana] This afternoon Salvadoran Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said that at this moment a meeting of Central American presidents would be useless.

Dr Ricardo Acevedo Peralta said there is no date for a presidential summit, and this summit might not even take place because Nicaragua does not have the positive attitude that would guarantee the success of this presidential meeting. The area's foreign ministers will recommend that their presidents abstain from taking part in such an important event if the Sandinist government continues to have its antidemocratic attitude.

[Begin Acevedo recording] Why do we want to expose our presidents to a summit when the proper conditions to ensure the success that the four area presidents deserve do not exist? I believe that for this summit to have the historic importance that Esquipulas II had, then we would have to wait for Nicaragua to show a sincere intention to straighten out its political situation and to resolve its problem through political discussion, and not through legal or [words indistinct] negotiations. [If this happens,] then the presidential summit will have adequate political space. [end recording]

Commenting on the agenda of the meeting that the foreign ministers from Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica, and El Salvador will hold with George Shultz, and the (?planned agenda) for the deputy foreign ministers, Acevedo Peralta said Nicaragua's attitude toward the peace process will be analyzed, so it is this country that will decide whether it will become democratic or remain outside of Esquipulas II.

[Begin Acevedo recording] I believe we cannot waste any more time. If Nicaragua cannot become democratic we should (?clearly say so). The four democracies have to defend their sovereignty, defend their political principles, create a protective cordon around the cancer that Nicaragua represents—the Nicaraguan totalitarism—and forget about gaining time for the sole purpose of allowing the consolidation of a Marxist regime. [end recording]

The meeting of foreign ministers with U.S. Secretary of State Shultz is scheduled for 1 August in Guatemala City. As Nicaragua will not be present, Acevedo Peralta did not rule out the possibility of explaining to the Sandinist government the results of the meeting.

Rosa Chavez on Leftist Leader's Return

PA2507032888 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] San Salvador, 24 July (DPA)—Today San Salvador Auxiliary Bishop Gregorio Rosa Chavez said that a leftist political leader's plans to legally return to the country is proof of his intention to join the democratic process. Rosa Chavez added, however, that one cannot deny the fact that he is both a politician and a commander of the rebel forces.

Rosa Chavez referred in those terms to the government's refusal to permit the return of Mario Aguinada Carranza, secretary general of the Nationalist Democratic Union, UDN. Aguinada Carranza is accused of being a commander of the Armed Forces of Liberation, FAL, the armed wing of the Communist Party of El Salvador, and he must face charges of committing violent crimes.

Today the bishop said that Aguinada Carranza has certainly been presented abroad as an FMLN commander, above all in the negotiations for President Jose Napoleon Duarte's daughter, who was kidnapped in 1985 and released in exchange for several political prisoners. Rosa Chavez said Aguinada's case is ambiguous, because he is a commander and a politician. His return, however, could be solved like that of other politicians who returned to join the country's democratic process, Rosa Chavez added.

The whole issue is part of the struggle for peace being waged in the country, and the archdiocese has organized a national debate for peace that far-right groups have rejected. Nevertheless, the bishop said, the Episcopal Conference of El Salvador supports the event, which comprises several phases—one of which has already begun.

Bishop Rosa Chavez also deplored the acts of violence following a demonstration this week that ended with the burning of vehicles and other damage to private property. "Many people saw these actions and now believe that peace cannot be achieved in a rational way. However, I believe it is possible," Rosa Chavez said.

He also said another student demonstration has been announced to mark a massacre on 30 July, and the University of El Salvador authorities have requested a mass in front of the cathedral, where several professionals will receive their diplomas at the end of the march. "We have accepted the request and issued an appeal for wisdom to prevail and for everything to end peacefully," Rosa Chavez said.

Referring to other violence over the past week, the bishop said the archbishopric's legal office has information that 12 people have died. Likewise, contact has been maintained with the family of labor leader Eliseo Cordova Aguilar, who has apparently been arrested, although the authorities have denied reports of his arrest. The bishop said: "The church hopes the case will be resolved as soon as possible."

The pastor said: The Salvadoran bishops have asserted that "the search for peace, which the country wants so much, cannot disregard a profound respect for life from the very moment of conception."

UNTS Rejects Coprefa Report of Demonstration

PA2307160188 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Report on interview with Humberto Centeno, leader of the National Union of Salvadoran Workers (UNTS) by Alfredo Villareal; date and place not given—passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] [Villareal] In commenting on yesterday's disturbances, UNTS leader Humberto Centeno has stated: Our plan was to stand for 10 minutes in front of the Treasury

Police building. UNTS leaders Marco Tulio Lima and Humberto Centeno rejected Army reports that march participants provoked the Treasury Police. They explained that UNTS was only meeting to demand the release of [words indistinct] labor union member Eliseo Cordoba. They also denied having tried to occupy the police offices.

[Centeno] "Our plan was to stand for 10 minutes in front of the Treasury Police building. Workers have never occupied a military installation. Thus, those statements by Coprefa officers are really absurd. After spending 10 minutes demanding Eliseo Cordoba's release, we had planned to head for the Legislative Assembly to present a document on [words indistinct].

"Unfortunately, the Armed Forces tried to intensify the repression of the workers. Yesterday, the people actually witnessed the workers' indignation when we confront repressive troops to demand the release of captured companeros."

[Villareal] In flatly denying that they are tied to the FMLN, Centeno admitted that UNTS burned 10 vehicles in response to Army provocations.

[Centeno] "In view of the attack by the government or the Armed Forces, we could not just say: Look, the man is indignant; you hurt him and beat him up. The government bears the blame; we are not responsible. That is my answer. If you are attacked, you would be mad. Thus, your reaction would be that of a mad person, of a person whose dignity has been trampled."

[Villareal] As for a university march scheduled for 30 July to mark the 1975 massacre, Centeno, in a challenging tone, held the Armed Forces responsible for any street violence.

[Centeno] "We dare Coprefa to speak out about the murderers of 74 Indians in Las Hojas. We ask them whether 10 burned vehicles are more important than the lives of 74 Indians, whose murderers are High Command members. We want them to explain that to the people.

"The Armed Forces will bear the blame for whatever might happen on 30 July. Repression and threats are the only weapons that have been available to the Armed Forces and ruling groups in El Salvador to silence the people."

[Villareal] UNTS, which was created on 8 February 1986, claims to be the largest Salvadoran workers group. It has carried out many actions rejected by the current government, which has refused to meet with UNTS representatives.

Defense Officials on Proposed Emergency Law

PA2407141188 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 23 Jul 88 p 5

[Excerpts] Yesterday Salvadoran Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio Vides Casanova said that "with or without the emergency law, the Armed Forces will continue to struggle against vandalism as established in the Constitution."

Gen Vides Casanova was interviewed by local and foreign correspondents following a ceremony in which the military attaches of Ecuador and Chile were decorated.

The defense minister said the workers are allowing themselves to be influenced by a group of people who are not aware of the country's current situation and that the workers do not understand that this harms not only them but also the country. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, General Adolfo O. Blandon, chief of the joint chiefs of staff, said vandalism cannot be tolerated. Gen Blandon added that the Armed Forces High Command is not harming the country or trying to violate the people's rights when it tries to guarantee social well-being.

Gen Blandon said that an emergency law, like the one being studied by the Legislative Assembly, will not violate the rights of the Salvadoran people. Blandon added that this law will only guarantee the people's safety, which is threatened by terrorist violence that infiltrates all demonstrations, meetings, and other public events staged by the unions. [passage omitted]

Blandon on Protecting Civilian Defense Posts

PA2307012088 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 1900 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Report by Alfredo Villareal]

[Excerpt] In view of the recent guerrilla threat to carry out a new series of attacks on the civilian defense command posts throughout the country, General Adolfo Blandon, Salvadoran Army chief of the Joint General Staff, said that although the paramilitary posts are considered traditional targets of the FMLN, the Army will take special security measures to provide extra protection to the civilian defense posts. Army troops will reinforce civilian defense posts in case of rebel attacks. Gen Blandon also announced more military training for civilian defense members.

[Begin Blandon recording] We now have over 21,000 properly trained civilian defense members, and we are currently training over 10,000 more men who will join the civilian defense forces.

The Joint General Staff does not have any indication that the terrorists will increase actions specifically against civilian defense posts. We believe instead that we are dealing with propaganda activities. However, being aware that the civilian defense has neither adequate capacity, weapons, nor communication systems, the operations officer, C-3 of the Joint General Staff, will take special measures to relocate the various units that operate throughout the country to reassure the civilian defense forces. We want the civilian defense forces to feel protected by the various units of Army brigades and detachments as well as by the special Rapid Reaction Battalion units. In accordance with the information we

have and our estimates, we will move those units closer to where we think civilian defense posts could be attacked. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Guatemala

3 Discharged for Coup Attempt Participation

PA2207181388 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 21 Jul 88 p 11

[Text] Three more officers, including two colonels and one lieutenant, have been discharged from the Army because of their participation in the 11 May aborted coup. They were also granted amnesty.

They are Colonel Gustavo Adolfo Cifuentes Dardon, deputy commander of the Jutiapa Military Zone; Colonel Gustavo Adolfo Padilla Morales, deputy commander of the Retalhuleu Military Zone; and Lieutenant Miguel Angel Portilla, who was on leave in Jutiapa.

The three officers were facing charges and were not released when the amnesty law was decreed.

When consulted yesterday at the National Palace's Reception Room, Defense Minister General Hector Alejandro Gramajo confirmed that the three officers have been discharged.

Media Director Denies Closing News Segment

PA2207230288 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 22 Jul 88 p 6

[Text] Enrique Hernandez Escobar, director general of the Radio and Television Broadcast Office, has sent a note to this newspaper stating that he has not sent any note ordering Radio Centroamericana to suspend a segment of "The Herald" newscast. In this manner, the media official clarified a report broadcast yesterday by radio and television stations.

The director of "The Herald" newscast, Arsenio Perez Hernandez, said in a television news program that Carlos Peynado, who has the Radio Centroamericana frequency concession, had received a message "clearly and strongly stating that the 'People's Feeling' segment of the newscast had to go off the air."

According to the newscast director, the message also stated that "that news segment is used to harass the government, and while it is true that intelligent people participate in the program, it is also true that people who are not endowed with this quality also participate in it and abuse the right of freedom of expression. If the segment remains on the air, Radio Centroamericana's crystal will be taken from the station."

Body of Kidnapped Lawyer Found 22 Jul

PA2207215888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1745 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 22 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today Lawyer Carlos Moran Amaya, who was kidnapped along with arraignment Judge Julio Anibal Trejo Duque on Wednesday, was found shot to death in a residential area in the southern part of the capital. The national police reported that the body of Moran Amaya, 38, was found in the street and showed "signs of torture, of having been handcuffed and shot several times."

The lawyer was kidnapped along with Judge Trejo Duque, who on 19 July sentenced 27 rural treasury policemen to jail for an undetermined number of kidnappings and murders.

According to national police investigations, a group of treasury agents made up a "death squad" during the time Oscar Diaz Urquizu, former security chief for President Vinicio Cerezo, was director general.

Diaz Urquizu appeared today before the Seventh Criminal Arraignment Court on "suspicion" of having links with the group of agents that carried out kidnappings and murders. Judge Vicente Sagastume Perez, who replaced Trejo Duque, ordered Diaz Urquizu arrested.

Meanwhile, Maria Martinez Trejo, wife of the kidnapped judge, today called upon President Vinicio Cerezo and Supreme Court President Edmundo Vasquez Martinez to "expedite" the investigations to rescue her husband alive.

Judge Trejo Duque and lawyer Moran Amaya were kidnapped on Wednesday while traveling by car after having left the Supreme Court building.

The car, which was rammed by two vehicles used by the kidnappers and forced to stop, according to the police report, was located last night in a poor neighborhood in the southern part of the capital.

Judge Released

PA2307204388 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 1230 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Arraignment Judge Julio Anibal Trejo Duque's kidnappers, who abducted him on Wednesday, released him last night in Zone 2 of Guatemala City.

While recounting his kidnapping at the national police offices, Trejo said his abductors first chased him and then used two cars to block him in the area near 7th Avenue and 39th Street, Zone 8. The kidnappers then forced him to climb into an automobile at gunpoint and took him away.

Trejo said his kidnappers did not hurt him and treated him well, but he could not see any of them because he was blindfolded until his release yesterday evening.

The Supreme Court official was reunited with his family last night at the national police office in the presence of Government Ministry officials. He deplored the killing of his fellow official, whom he did not see after the kidnapping.

Judge Trejo may continue handling the case of the white panel trucks and the 27 treasury policemen who were charged with involvement in irregularities committed with those vehicles. He may resume the case next week, it was reported, because he was not hurt by his captors and feels fine.

Meanwhile, the presidency of the Supreme Court again asked the Government Ministry to expedite the investigation into the death of Trejo's companion.

Nicaragua

Ortega on Talks With Contras, Dukakis Remarks

PA2407040588 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0140 GMT 24 Jul 88

[News conference held by President Daniel Ortega with unidentified local and foreign reporters during the "commemoration of the 23 July 1959 students' massacre" at the Leon cemetery—recorded]

[Text] [Reporter] What do you think about the disbanding of the counterrevolutionary forces and the fact that Alfredo Cesar has threatened to resign?

[Ortega] This is nothing new. We are familiar with the counterrevolutionaries' contradictions. Their's is a defeated force. This only confirms what we have asserted so many times, that the contras constitute a defeated force, although they are reluctant to admit the truth. President Reagan's forces have been defeated [words indistinct].

[Reporter] What about George Shultz' visit to Central America?

[Ortega] This also confirms the permanent position of the counterrevolutionaries, on whom the hard-line policy of President Reagan and Abrams is still being imposed. Nevertheless, their forces and strategy have already been defeated.

[Reporter] What would be the effect of this visit on future talks with the contras?

[Ortega] At present, we do not think there is anyone to talk with. We are seeing great contradictions in Miami and Costa Rica. So we do not think there are any people or groups with whom we can negotiate.

[Reporter] President Ortega, how do you view the Esquipulas agreement now that a year has passed since it was signed?

[Ortega] We could refer back to what I have already said. At present, the immediate need should be to reactivate the negotiating process and [words indistinct].

[Reporter] It is being said in San Jose that Bermudez will continue to head the negotiating delegation during the talks.

[Ortega] For the time being, only intentions exist. But we have observed various contradictions. They say something now and then change their minds later. There is a clear contradiction. We cannot say at present that their position is consistent. The opposite is true.

[Reporter] President Ortega, on 19 July you [words indistinct].

[Ortega] We regard this as a provocation by the counterrevolutionaries to force us into lifting the cessation of operations and launch a total offensive. In this way, they seek to have the U.S. Government resume military aid for the contras. This aid is being discussed. The contras' attacks are a provocation and a trap into which we will not be lured. We will not, however, tolerate such activities. We are (?ready to fight) those forces.

[Reporter] About Dukakis' remarks?

[Ortega] His remarks constitute hope for the Latin American peoples, including Nicaragua, all of whom demand [words indistinct] from the United States. We are still confronting a U.S. Administration that keeps attacking Latin America. Just as it attacked Nicaragua, it is now attacking Brazil with economic measures. This is the position of the current U.S. Administration. Dukakis is familiar with the Latin American way of thinking. He has lived in Latin America, speaks Spanish, and has expressed political goodwill toward this region. We hope that if he becomes president, he will be able to fulfill this goodwill, because there are very powerful forces in the United States that will oppose a policy that advocates a new kind of relations, a new dialogue between Latin America and the United States.

Praises Dukakis Speech

PA2407171588 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1601 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Managua, 24 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said U.S. Democratic presidential candidate Michael Dukakis "respects the determination and independence of Latin American countries."

In a statement to ACAN-EFE, Ortega commented on Dukakis' acceptance speech, which refers to the Latin American problem.

Dukakis said in Atlanta, Georgia, that "the threat to the United States is not the Sandinist government; instead, it is drugs, which destroy and kill our children."

"Dukakis' speech goes even further regarding respect for Latin American countries. There is hope for a new dialogue with the United States," the president said.

"Dukakis' speech respects Latin American countries' self-determination and independence and favors a peaceful solution to the Central American conflict."

Dukakis said: "Reagan's era is over and a new era begins."

Relations between the Nicaraguan Government and the Reagan administration have gone through all types of tensions and difficulties since 1981.

Relations have been at a low point ever since the Managua government expelled U.S. Ambassador Richard Melton on 11 July, and the Washington government, in reprisal, expelled Nicaraguan Ambassador Carlos Tunnermann.

Ramirez on Relations With U.S., LA PRENSA

PA2407221888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1657 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Managua, 24 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez said that settling the issue of U.S. support for anti-Sandinist rebels "would be enough to improve Managua-Washington relations."

In statements to ACAN-EFE in Managua, Ramirez commented on Michael Dukakis' acceptance speech at the Democratic Party convention. During his 46-minute speech in Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday, Dukakis said "the Sandinist government is no threat to the United States; drugs that are destroying and killing our children are."

"Settling the issue of support for the contras would suffice," Ramirez pointed out. He added that "here (in Nicaragua) we could survive a struggle against terrorist groups not financed by the United States." Ramirez noted: "I do not believe Colonel Enrique Bermudez (current member of the Resistance's Directorate) will give up his counterrevolutionary plans." That "contra" leader would continue his attempt to destabilize the Sandinist "democratic plan" with "outside forces" even without U.S. support, Ramirez said.

The Nicaraguan statesman and writer pointed out that if the U.S. Congress stops supporting the "contras" and if Dukakis is elected president, "the path to democratic life would be cleared; however, we cannot say that peace would bring us a political system similar to that of a European parliamentary system." He pointed out that "there is violence" in Latin America and cited the case of Ecuador, "where elections are bloody episodes during which people pull out pistols." He admitted that it will not be an easy task to "eliminate verbal violence" in Nicaragua. Ramirez said that "if peace is achieved, verbal violence would be tolerable. There would be room for verbal violence, and the Sandinists would not fear what (the newspaper) LA PRENSA might report, even if it is reporting what it wishes."

"I believe the issue of whether LA PRENSA is supported by guns is most important," Ramirez pointed out. LA PRENSA, a strongly anti-Sandinist newspaper, is currently under a 15-day suspension that expires Wednesday, when it is expected to circulate again.

According to Ramirez, LA PRENSA has played an "absolutely destabilizing" role, because it does not seek ways to help "the government improve and find better tools to exercise democracy; on the contrary, that paper aims to discredit Nicaraguan democracy."

He pointed out that "abuses are committed during war; we would not take steps against the media for violating freedom of speech limits in peacetime."

The Sandinist leader insisted that a U.S.-Nicaraguan agreement would create a climate conducive to a normalization of the Central American situation. He warned, however, that once the United States stops financing the war, "other basic problems in the region will emerge." Ramirez gave no details as to which problems he meant.

The Nicaraguan vice president said civilian governments are most appropriate for Central America, but he warned that "threats of dictatorship, from which we cannot rid ourselves, are present. That is why it is important to continue the Esquipulas process; however, it must not be viewed as a weapon to democratize Nicaragua."

In reply to another question, Ramirez told ACAN-EFE that the EEC has played a "key role" in Central America. He added that the EEC has maintained a position opposite to that of the United States, because Nicaragua has been included in aid granted to the region, while the Reagan administration "is trying to persuade others that the Nicaraguan Government is a threat not only to U.S. security but to the entire world's security."

Cesar on RN Organization, Possibility of Talks

PA2207202088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1845 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Report on news conference held by Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) Directorate member Alfredo Cesar on 22 July by Margarita Morales—place not given]

[Text] [Morales] Alfredo Cesar, member of the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate and president of the Southern Opposition Bloc, held a news conference today and confirmed that the bloc will remain within the RN. Cesar also talked about the new RN Directorate. Regarding the duties of the Directorate, Cesar said:

[Begin Cesar recording] As of next week, we will begin to do the following:

1. Enrique Bermudez will no longer be military commander.

2. The new Directorate has decided to do things differently this year. The Directorate decided to change [words indistinct]. Each director will be responsible for his own specific area. Last year, this was done on a rotational basis; we rotated every 2 months.

We are also thinking of appointing an executive commission within the Directorate. This would allow us to handle our day to day affairs. It is not easy for a 7-man Directorate to handle these day to day matters properly and efficiently.

As a member of the Directorate, Commander Enrique Bermudez will be responsible for supervising the RN's military responsibilities. I will be responsible for finding a political solution to the Nicaraguan problem. I will do this as a negotiator in the talks with the Sandinist regime. [end recording]

Cesar also said that the RN is willing to continue its talks with the Sandinist regime. However, this will not be possible as long as the current situation in Nicaragua prevails; this will not be possible as long as Radio Catolica and LA PRENSA remain closed; it is impossible to resume these talks while opposition leaders are being held in jail.

The RN leader also announced that he will meet with Costa Rican President Oscar Arias tomorrow. Cesar is going to suggest that the next meeting between the RN and the Nicaraguan Government be held in Costa Rica and that the agreements reached be witnessed by the four democratic presidents of the area.

Asks Arias To Host Talks

PA2307214988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1953 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] San Jose, 23 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—Today the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN) asked President Oscar Arias to host in Costa Rica a possible meeting between the RN and the Nicaraguan Government on the issue of a final cease-fire.

Alfredo Cesar, who is in charge of the RN Directorate's political relations and negotiations with Managua, presented this request to the Costa Rican president during a meeting with him today that lasted more than 2 hours.

Cesar said that during this meeting he also discussed with Arias the possible consequences on the peace process of the appointment of former Somozist Colonel Bermudez to the "contra" Directorate.

According to Cesar, Bermudez, who is the most controversial RN leader in the eyes of anti-Sandinist groups, Latin American governments, and U.S. congressmen, will step down as "contra" military chief and become a contra "supervisor."

Cesar said he had discussed with President Arias the concern that many people have about the RN, namely that it might now adopt a "stronger" position concerning the dialogue with the authorities in Managua. Cesar added that he had reasserted the anti-Sandinists' willingness to continue the talks, which began on 21 March and were discontinued on 9 July.

The rebel leader told ACAN-EFE that no contact had been established with the Nicaraguan Government for a new round of talks, but, given the upcoming "diplomatic activities," the RN wanted to state its willingness to renew the negotiations—but not in Managua.

Cesar mentioned the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and the Central American foreign ministers—with the exception of Nicaragua—that will be held in Costa Rica on 1 August, the 1st anniversary of the "Esquipulas II" peace plan, and the presidential meeting in Quito on 10 August, for Ecuadoran President-elect Rodrigo Borja's inauguration.

"We know President Arias will begin to make contacts for a dialogue," he said.

Cesar said he is sure Arias understood that Bermudez' inclusion in the new RN Directorate does not mean that the organization will give up the search for a political solution to the crisis in Nicaragua or that the military sector will dominate the civil sector.

He added that even though the closure of some news media in Nicaragua does not help create a good atmosphere for a dialogue, and although Managua must rescind these measures as a condition to renew the talks. [sentence as received]

Southern Front Offers To Talk With Government

PA2307194588 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0512 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Report by Alister Doyle]

[Text] Tegucigalpa, (REUTER)—Today the commanders of the Nicaraguan guerrillas' southern front said that they will try and establish separate peace talks with the Managua authorities, following the group's split from the main contra forces after accusing the Directorate of moving to the extreme right.

A spokesman for the seven dissident commanders said they will ask Costa Rican President Oscar Arias to act as mediator, adding that they want the talks to take place in Costa Rica. The spokesman refused to give his name.

The dissidents broke off from the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN), the main contra group, on Tuesday, arguing that the appointment of RN military commander Bermudez as a member of the political Directorate "conspires against the struggle."

The dissidents accused the RN of being too right wing by choosing Bermudez, a former colonel in the Somozist National Guard who has been accused of incompetence and corruption.

The seven commanders said "if the (Nicaraguan) regime wants to set dates and places to start serious and honest negotiations to establish liberty, democracy, and peace in our fatherland, then we can sit down and talk."

The dissidents called upon Arias to try and revive his Central American peace plan, which is aimed at ending the three guerrilla wars being fought in the area.

The seven commanders pointed out that they "do not want another dialogue of the deaf," referring to the failed 9 June Managua peace talks.

The group added: "We shall, however, explore the slightest hope of negotiation to resolve the Nicaraguan civil war."

The dissidents said they will comply with the cease-fire, which has been in effect since 1 April, but warned that "we are unwilling to indefinitely prolong the current truce."

The dissident commanders said they have 2,700 troops in the southern part of Nicaragua, near the Costa Rican border, and added they have not received funds since February.

The split between the northern and southern fronts is a victory for the Nicaraguan Government, which is already negotiating an independent peace accord with the Atlantic coast anti-Sandinist Indian tribes.

Alfredo Cesar, one of the contra leaders, said today in San Jose, Costa Rica, that Bermudez could resign from the RN military leadership, but he did not know whether the former Somozist colonel accepted this way out.

Appoints New Military Chief

PA2207190088 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1749 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] San Jose, 22 Jul (DPA)—Pedro Lara, Commander "Ganso," has been appointed military chief of the anti-Sandinist forces in southern Nicaragua.

A communique of the southern Nicaraguan Strategic General Staff (EME) issued today by official spokesman Francisco Delgado reported that "the combatants of the southern front in Nicaragua have withdrawn from the Nicaraguan Resistance (RN), but we will not abandon the armed struggle against the Sandinist government."

It added that "we are looking for private financing to continue this struggle."

The southern front combatants announced their withdrawal from the Nicaraguan Resistance 2 days ago because of Enrique Bermudez' appointment to the RN leadership.

"Down with today's communism and with the Somozist past," the communique stated, referring to the fact that Enrique Bermudez is a former Somozist military chief.

Wheelock on Bermudez RN Directorate Election

PA2407010888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1940 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Panama City, 23 Jul (ACAN-EFE)—The election of former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez as a chief of the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] was the result of "a new strategy of the U.S. right." This statement was made today by Jaime Wheelock, Nicaraguan commander of the revolution and agriculture and agrarian reform minister, who is participating in the fourth special meeting of the Regional Agricultural Cooperation Council (CORECA) in Panama City. The meeting concludes today.

Wheelock told ACAN-EFE that Bermudez' appointment implies the displacement of "non-Somozist" civilians in the contra command. Wheelock added: In my opinion the contras "are not interested in ideology but in domination." He noted that this interest in "domination" is made evident by the Nicaraguan Resistance's (RN) desire to reinstall the "Somozist model" in Nicaragua. [passage omitted]

The commander said that the Managua government has demonstrated its goodwill by unilaterally extending the cease-fire until 30 August and by calling for a new round of talks to secure a definitive cease-fire. [passage omitted]

Wheelock said that the Nicaraguan Government is trying to create suitable conditions for the opposition parties to join fully in the country's political life. He said that the "national salvation government" idea promoted by Nicaraguan opposition sectors is "another flop" and one of the "latest CIA efforts" to overthrow the government.

Regarding Panama, the Sandinist commander said that "the United States has tried to destroy the unity that exists between the people and the Panama Defense Forces." [passage omitted]

On U.S. Panama Policy

PA2307041788 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Statement by Commander of the Revolution Jaime Wheelock, minister of agricultural development and agrarian reform, in Panama City on 22 July—recorded]

[Text] We do not understand how [the U.S. Government] can attack Panama, threaten the Panama Defense Forces, make accusations against General Manuel Antonio Noriega, and decide not to recognize the current Panamanian Government. Yet right after a coup in Haiti, it could recognize coupist General Namphy, with whom it maintains excellent relations in spite of the fact

that Namphy is a man who has been murdering, massacring his own people and is subjecting the country once again to a military dictatorship, which has been in effect in Haiti for the past 40 or 50 years.

We know that the essential problem in Panama, as in the rest of Central America, is imperialistic interests of the United States. The essential problem is the canal. The United States wants to renege on the Torrijos-Carter treaties. The day is coming when the Panamanian people, for the first time in their historic struggle, will have the possibility of recovering that very important part of their territory, of their national sovereignty. This is the fundamental problem.

As we see it, the problem is neither the Defense Forces nor the government. The problem is the U. S. desire to renege on the commitment it made in the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

CIA 'Imposition' of Bermudez on Contras

PA2207191488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Jul 88 p 3

[Editorial: "The National Guard Unmasked"]

[Text] On 19 July, while President Daniel Ortega presented the new Nicaraguan Government proposal to resume the peace talks, President Reagan's mercenaries ambushed two civilian vehicles in Matagalpa Department, killing seven peasants, including five children.

That was the first action with which the new contra "Directorate" inaugurated itself as head of the mercenary movement. That action clearly illustrated the "new" CIA plans against Nicaragua, now that the Somozist National Guard has been openly declared as the head of the counterrevolution.

How many brand-new "directorates" have marched past before us throughout these years? How many heads has the CIA made roll in its search for a fresh face for the contras as part of an impossible attempt to wash the bloody face of the mercenary forces and to present a new, more civilian, and democratic face to the world?

The first heads rolled in 1981, when the CIA could not prevent the former National Guard members from carrying out terrorist actions against the civilian population. The "legions" and "alliances" disappeared and gave way to the FDN. The first "Directorate" was born, too. Somozists whose properties had been confiscated and wealthy "members of the opposition" joined that directorate and became the "democratic face" of the National Guard.

A mercenary force never has had civilian credentials, because democracy never got along with huge salaries paid by a foreign government. The sad reality of one "directorate" after another was unmasked: They were formed by people who were CIA wage earners and mere executors of Washington's bloody and deadly policies.

Now, in the death throes of the Reagan administration, the CIA has decided to take on the political cost that the appointment of Colonel Bermudez as head of the contra Directorate represents as long as it can preserve what has always been its mainstay: the National Guard.

With the appointment of the new "Directorate," the CIA confirmed the Somozist leadership of the contra movement, the same leadership that it strongly denied in the past. To preserve the contra movement, the CIA has been forced to promote Bermudez's to a top position, thus moving the new "director" above any "civilian" leader.

How the CIA imposed Bermudez on the contras clearly proves to us the type of democracy the contras believe in and wish to introduce in Nicaragua. The contras' "democracy" proves that "he who pays gives the orders," confirming what the people always knew: The contras have a guardsman as a democratic "leader" who issues orders.

The CIA's imposition on the contra Directorate makes peace negotiations even more remote and confirms the wisdom of the people's willingness to achieve peace by whatever means necessary.

Nandaime Protesters Turned Over to Authorities

PA2207151488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 21 Jul 88 p 5

[Text] Granada—Yesterday Granada prosecutor Ivan Membreno confirmed to BARRICADA that this afternoon he will file charges at Granada's Criminal District Court against several people involved in the rightist disturbances in Nandaime on 10 July 1988. The men are accused of various crimes, including personal injury.

During an interview with BARRICADA, Membreno discussed a report that states that the police, heeding legal appeals, had revoked the initial prison sentences for 39 people. As a result of this decision, the 39 people have been turned over to the authorities and charged with various crimes.

As already reported, the people arrested and charged with leading the disturbances include Carlos Huembes Trejos, a trade union leader whom the rightists designated director of the so-called Democratic Coordinating Board, and Miriam Arguello, leader of the conservatives who follow Aguero [Fernando Aguero, leader of the Nicaraguan Conservative Party's Aguerista faction]. Roger Guevara Mena, a Coordinating Board director and organizer of the demonstration that should have been peaceful, and Agustin Jarquin, leader of a Social Christian Party faction, are also detained.

Most of the other detainees are demonstrators who were brought to Nandaime from various locations throughout the country. They have been charged with carrying out violent actions against the police and police vehicles, actions encouraged by Nandaime political leaders.

A considerable amount of evidence gathered by the Sandinist police during the investigation is now being turned over to the Granada criminal court. Some of the evidence applies to individuals, while other evidence applies to groups of individuals and can be classified as documented evidence and material witness reports.

The evidence includes clubs, sharp sticks, machetes, and knives.

The evidence also includes pictures and video cassettes. Material witness reports include statements by policemen and other witnesses.

Ortega's Anniversary Speech Criticized

PA2207192588 Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 0400 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] After listening to President Ortega's speech commemorating the 9th anniversary of the FSLN's rise to power, we are convinced that every one of the FSLN's actions has been the product of a plan carried out with careful precision.

For the first time, Mr Ortega made it clear that Nicaragua has been a socialist state since 1979. Therefore, it should not surprise us that steps have never been taken toward a long-awaited democratization. This is why there has never been political openness and why political parties have never been allowed to exercise their right to participate in deciding on national issues. Power has been reserved for only one party, and that party is unwilling to compromise that power, much less grant other groups the opportunity to attain it.

Therefore, the issue of political pluralism is only an illusion, something out of a Wonder Woman or Superman movie. Political pluralism is incompatible with socialism, as are a mixed economy and unrestricted freedom of the press. Bear in mind that socialism condemns private ownership of production and trade enterprises and promotes state socialization and consumer and production cooperatives. Marx and Engels had already pointed this out in the 19th century by saying that social structures must inevitably be transformed.

These topics had been very much evaded, although in the last 2 months President Ortega had begun to suggest that an announcement would be made on 19 July, as, in effect, it was. The contradiction lies in that he still speaks of political pluralism, a mixed economy, and nonalignment, while, on the other hand, he publicly informs us that Nicaragua has been a socialist state since 1979.

Ortega's speech contained several interesting points, such as that of normalizing relations with the United States. He made it clear that Nicaragua is far from breaking relations with the United States. However, we do not have to wait for a second speech to realize that this concept of normal relations is not very clear. On the one hand the government publicizes its good intentions, while, on the other hand, it calls the president of the country with which it wishes to have normal relations a terrorist.

We have noticed that the Sandinists, who have spoken harshly to internal groups and treated them as political beggars, have only lukewarmly acknowledged the political system that has been ruling us since 1979. Is this a lack of courage? A lack of conviction? Or is this a tactic? It would have been more inspiring, more political, more frank to say: We are socialists and we have implanted the socialist system in Nicaragua.

This way we would no longer fool ourselves into thinking that the leaders are going to change the course of their political agenda. We do not expect them to change their ideas, for they have the right to believe whatever they please. Those of us who believe in political pluralism respect their right to do so, just as we demand that they respect our right. The concept of socialism was so quietly mentioned that President Ortega's statement almost went unnoticed. It was almost whispered into our ears so our neighbors would not find out.

If we are to believe that we have been socialists since 1979, this would mean that privately formed political parties, independent labor unions, and nonalignment no longer have a reason to exist, that everything is over, and that all that is left for democracy is a requiem, may it rest in peace, amen. However, since we are doubting Thomases, we expect a clearer and stronger announcement, one that can be heard much more clearly: We are socialists. Until it comes, thank you very much.

Defense Ministry Reports 20-21 Jul Clashes

PA2307165388 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Last night the Defense Ministry reported combat actions in response to counterrevolutionary attacks on EPS troops:

On 21 July, a mercenary group attacked our troops in a place known as Santa Teresa, east of La Libertad, Chontales Department. As a result, one mercenary was killed.

That same day, our troops were attacked at a place known as (Montana Palo Prieto), northwest of Wiwili, Jinotega Department. As a result, another mercenary was killed.

As for terrorist attacks on civilians and economic targets by mercenary forces loyal to former Somozist Colonel Enrique Bermudez, the Defense Ministry reported that:

On 20 July, a mercenary group ambushed a Rover civilian vehicle in a place known as (Las Quiatas), west of San Sebastian de Yali, Jinotega. As a result, civilian Marcos Melgara was killed, civilian Francisco Valdivia was wounded, and another civilian was kidnapped.

On 21 July, other mercenary contras murdered civilian Guillermo Ponce in a place known as (Mirabien), west of Santo Tomas, Chontales Department.

Panama

Reporter Arrested for Threat to State Security

PA2307225088 San Jose Radio Impacto in Spanish 1830 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Text] ...Noriega's government. According to his relatives, Homero Londono is being held by the G-2 and may be transferred to the prison this afternoon. They said they found it difficult to determine where Homero Londono is being held because the District Attorney's Office and the police denied having any knowledge of his arrest. We practically had to force them to tell us where Homero was because the G-2 denied having him, one of his relatives said.

It is known that Beltran Alberto Quevale, secretary of the Panamanian Attorney General's Office, was the one who signed the arrest order, which four G-2 officers presented when they arrested Londono at his home.

The Noriega dictatorship is accusing Londono of threatening the security of the state, a charge that is always made against those who report the barbaric actions of oppressive governments. Londono has distinguished himself for being an honest and truthful journalist and has never been disrespectful of the Noriega government. He is in jail today for simply reporting to the world and the Panamanian people the country's true situation. This undoubtedly bothered the dictatorship, and it ordered the G-2 to arrest him and seize all his documents and recordings.

Esquivel on Opposition Unity, Electoral Code

PA2207144288 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Interview with Dr Roderick Esquivel, Liberal Party leader and vice president under Eric Delvalle, by unidentified reporter on 21 July; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Esquivel] While the political parties supporting the de facto government today continue with their plans, the opposition is uniting more all the time. It is now time to say that very little is separating us, compared to the factors that are uniting us. A total unity of the opposition is inevitable. The opposition has united, and it will continue to be united if we want to participate in the elections. Conditions are terrible today; everything is in favor of the government. We do not even have any independent media to express our ideas.

The opposition is united, and all Panamanians know the opposition is protesting for a true change. The opposition must be united not only for the elections, but also for rebuilding the country; for rebuilding our economy; for rebuilding our state organizations; for saving the Social Security System, which is ruined; and for saving our health system, our educational system, and our highways. The government must stop being a central system of lies. We must meet the needs of the Panamanians; we must lead and rebuild this country so it will again become a center of peace and progress.

[Reporter] Dr Esquivel, looking toward the 1989 elections, the Legislative Assembly has begun debate on reforms of the Electoral Code. What do you think about the role the opposition is playing in this debate?

[Esquivel] I congratulate the opposition legislators who are attending these discussions, because we know from experience that this type of reform is not for the benefit of those of us who vote. The reforms are for the benefit of certain groups and, many times, certain people. There have been cases when the organization of an entire voting district has been changed to favor exclusively one person, so that person can have a group of voters over which he has great influence.

Laws are not made to favor political parties or small groups that have taken over all power to legislate, rule, and administer justice. Laws are issued for the benefit of a country. Because suffrage is one of the most sacred pillars of a democracy, an electoral reform under these conditions is a farce. To discuss an electoral law that will represent the feelings of the voters and will allow the voters to express their true desires, there must be a complete agreement of all groups. This is not the situation we have now, in which there is no freedom.

[Reporter] There is a crisis of credibility for the next elections. What do you think we Panamanians should do to solve this situation?

[Esquivel] The government's lack of credibility was immense when this government term began. We, the Liberals, participated in this government with great hopes and with a desire to help so this country would again be a democracy. We wanted the government to truly represent the Panamanians' feelings and to regain its lost credibility. I never imagined, however, that this lack of credibility would worsen. We have now reached the point that when any government official says anything, we Panamanians believe the truth is the complete opposite. There is no credibility. It is the complete opposite. I would recommend government officials not say anything, because we believe the complete opposite of everything they say.

We have learned much; they can no longer deceive us.

Labor Minister on Unemployment Situation
PA2407170688 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 24 Jul 88 p A-1

[Article by Edmundo Dante Dolphy]

[Text] During a regional seminar on job planning and revenues, Labor and Social Welfare Minister Cesar Martans noted that if the mass dismissal of workers—because of the country's serious economic and political crisis—continues, the government could be forced to take stronger measures, including the possibility of making radical changes in the labor laws.

Martans termed the effects of the [U.S.] aggression as devastating to the job market and to the living conditions of Panamanians.

According to the minister, in the first half of 1988 alone more than 18,000 workers have been laid off in the private sector. This is a partial indicator because it does not include completely paralyzed sectors, such as construction, and other semiparalized sectors where work hours have been drastically reduced.

Martans said that because of the effects of the aggression, our country will have unprecedented unemployment, which is already near 17 percent.

He added that the government has tried—through labor mediation, legal provisions, and Decree 13 of May 1988—to reduce mass dismissals. However, the expected results have not yet been attained. This is a "situation that demands stronger measures to halt these actions that are destabilizing Panamanian families, even if this implies the possibility of radical changes in the labor laws."

Argentina

Ministry Official on 'Economic Shock Plan'

PY2207232388 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] A Finance Ministry spokesman has said that the government could possibly apply a new economic shock plan to curb inflation around August or September. This initiative will be based on an agreement with the business sector to do away with the indexation of the economy and drastically reduce public expenditures.

This means that some public works projects will have to be postponed and that the public deficit will be reduced through domestic and foreign financing.

According to Finance Ministry sources, Economy Minister Juan Sourrouille chose the aforementioned dates for implementing the economic plan in order to allow the economic team enough time to close some deals with foreign creditors.

The sources also said that the anti-inflation plan does not foresee the unification of the exchange rate market. The government has chosen to speak with companies that have the most influence in setting prices because salary increases have little affect on these companies.

The spokesmen said that the Economy Ministry has been contacting these companies which, although not rejecting the plan, are somewhat uneasy of it because they fear a new price freeze.

The Finance Ministry sources nonetheless are certain that the distrust observed among the business sector will be wiped out as soon as the plan for the reduction of the fiscal deficit is definitely ready.

Besides assuring that the Economy Ministry is not considering a price freeze, the sources said that a detailed plan for the financing of the domestic debt will be prepared based on funds obtained from the surplus of agricultural exports.

The sources added that in the negotiations with the businessmen, the government is considering discussing the exchange rate and the public utility rates. Interest rates will not be discussed because the government does not control them, the sources stated.

Meanwhile, the Economy Ministry continues to analyze the economic and financial measures that must be adopted as a prerequisite to reaching a definite agreement with the foreign creditors to obtain a new stand-by loan and fresh money amounting to some $3.5 billion.

Caridi Comments on Military; Decorates General

PY2207040988 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2230 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 21 Jul (NA)—Tonight Army Chief of Staff General Dante Caridi reaffirmed that the Armed Forces are not only committed to supporting, but also to defending the democratic system. He said that "it reasserts the position it holds in compliance with the Constitution and the structure of our republican institutions."

He added that in keeping with this attitude "the Army centers all of its efforts in what, generically speaking, we call modernization and which in turn entails its rationalization, restructuring, and reorganization."

Caridi made this statement, which ratifies the current institutional relationship of the government with the Armed Forces, during a ceremony in which he decorated with the Order of May, General Carl Vuono, U.S. deputy chief of staff for operations and plans.

General Vuono and the members of his retinue began their official activities at 0900 with a visit to the National War College. In the afternoon, they paid a similar visit to the General San Martin Grenadiers Mounted Regiment.

During his address to General Vuono, Caridi compared the two Armies and stated that "they continue committed to the defense of freedom which is man's most precious possession. Therefore, the two peoples and their Armed Forces, which are a driving force in their lives, are proud to have spread this precious value to other nations."

He noted that this is a common denominator in the causes defended by San Martin and George Washington who "from both extremes of the continent represent the unwavering aspiration of the entire continent together with other worthy Latin American personalities." [passage omitted]

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Arrives

PY2407004888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0006 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jul (TELAM)—Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto arrived in Argentina today a little after 2040. The day after tomorrow he will begin an official 2-day visit, during which he will meet with President Raul Alfonsin.

The Costa Rican foreign minister arrived at Ezeiza Airport aboard an Aerolineas Argentinas plane. He was welcomed by Costa Rican Ambassador to Argentina, Fernando Salazar Navarrete and Argentine Foreign Ministry officials.

Tomorrow, Madrigal will pursue private activities, and on Monday he will participate in a working meeting with his Argentine counterpart, Dante Caputo.

On Monday afternoon, President Alfonsin will receive Madrigal at the Olivos residence, and on Tuesday, Madrigal will have another meeting with Caputo.

OAU Secretary General Visits Caputo

PY2207235388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1556 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jul (TELAM)—This morning OAU Secretary General Ide Oumarou met with Foreign Minister Dante Caputo. Oumarou is visiting the country in response to an invitation extended to him by Minister Caputo on 25 May when he attended the OAU foundation anniversary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

On that occasion, Caputo outlined a broad economic program between Latin America and Africa that was welcomed by numerous African leaders who regard it as a solution to the dependency of many African countries that have recently obtained their political independence.

On Monday, 25 July at 1800, Oumarou will be received by President Raul Alfonsin at the presidential residence in Olivos neighborhood. During his stay in the country, until 26 July, Oumarou will visit the cities of Salta and Cafayate and will hold working meetings with authorities of the Argentine Foreign Ministry.

Italian Firm To Build Helicopters in Cordoba

PY2307165888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1138 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Cordoba, 23 Jul (TELAM)—The Argentine Manufacturers of Aerospace Material (FAMA) have reached an agreement with an Italian company, Construzione Aeronautiche Giovani Augusta, to manufacture in Cordoba 600 helicopters for civilian and military use. The helicopters are to be exported to Latin American countries including Mexico.

This information was given to Cordoba Provincial Governor Eduardo Angeloz by FAMA Director General Ruben Corradetti, and by the Italian firm's executives, Rafaello Teti and Luiggi Passini, who both met with the governor.

The Italian executives said that the production plan is to manufacture 600 helicopters, and that the first aircraft of the production line will fly in 1992. They added that the agreement also includes the installation of maintenance center in Cordoba.

The total investment will be $120 million. FAMA and the Italian firm will provide $40 million each, and the remainder will be provided by European financial organizations.

The fuselage and other static parts of the helicopters will be manufactured in Cordoba Province, and the engines, rotors, and propellers will be manufactured in Italy. The avionics and other instruments will be provided by the usual suppliers.

The plan includes the manufacture of the A-109 model. One version of the model is an antitank version equipped with eight missiles, two gun pods, two rocket launchers, electronic warfare equipment, and duplicates of all systems. It is not easily detected by radar and not very noisy. It can fly up to 311 km per hour carrying eight people. It has Lycoming engines.

The Augusta firm is a company of the Efim group. It is the manufacturer of the largest variety of helicopters in the world. It has associations with other firms. In addition to a plant in Milan, it has plants in Rome, Brindisi, Brussels, Alexandria, Philadelphia, and other cities.

The contacts with the Italian firm began several years ago. The documents signed also call for the manufacture of a civilian version of the A-109, which is widely used in the United States, Europe, and Latin America.

Remote-Controlled Missile To Test in La Rioja

PY2307023688 Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 22 Jul 88 p 12

[Text] Cordoba—A locally built remote-controlled missile will be tested at the Chamical Base, in La Rioja, on 27 July.

The missile is called MQ-2 "Bigua" and is manufactured under a license from the Italian firm Meteor on the basis of the Mirach 100 design. It can reach speeds of 900 km per hour, gain a maximum height of 10,000 meters, and is hard to detect on radar. It is also very quiet.

A test will be conducted for Defense Minister Horacio Jaunarena. A source said that the missile is manufactured by the Quimar firm at a facility located within the Cordoba Materiel Area. Quimar is owned by Walter Spegler, a local businessman.

The "Bigua" can be used to transport targets for artillery or missiles and can be equipped with photographic or television cameras, electronic equipment for the transmission of intelligence informaton, or warheads.

The remote-controlled missile can also be equipped with autonomous guidance equipment.

The Air Force has denied reports from the United States and Great Britain which say that Argentina will sell another launching vehicle, the "Condor II," which reports say is a missile to Egypt and Iraq. These missiles are built at facilities in Falda de Carmen base in Cordoba Province.

It was revealed, however, that Egypt will purchase 50 "Pucara" IA-58 planes. These planes will be flown to Egypt in two groups of 25 planes each. They will be partially paid for with crude oil. It is worth noting that at the time the preceding report became known, the Cordoba Materiel Area plant had 17 "Pucara" planes on the assembly lines.

Government Declares Gas Strike Illegal

PY2207041488 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] The government has declared the indefinite strike organized by the employees of the State Gas Corporation illegal. The employees are demanding the derogation of a resolution which authorizes districts, cooperatives, and neighborhood organizations to construct and commercially exploit plants for the distribution of gas to private houses.

Today the measure caused a reduction in gas pressure; this prompted the government to adopt the necessary measures to guarantee the supply of this essential service.

This decision was adopted during a meeting held at the Interior Ministry and was headed by Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia.

Arrest of Chilean Leftists Discussed

PY2307134488 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 0200 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia held a meeting at his office this morning with Federal Police Chief, Inspector General Juan Angel Pircker and Foreign Minister Dante Caputo to discuss the situation of the three Chilean citizens arrested last weekend and the possibility of extraditing them.

According to information released by the federal police, the three Chileans arrested in Escobar and charged with illegal possession of weapons, belong to a branch of the Chilean Communist Party. Investigations are underway to determine whether they have had any links with the Argentine Communist Party.

According to a report released by the federal police, five Chilean citizens have been arrested in Argentina for the illegal possession of weapons.

The report also confirms that the arrested persons belong to the so-called Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front, the armed branch of the Chilean Communist Party.

Two Argentine citizens were also arrested in connection with this case, which is being heard by Judge Alberto Piotti. One of them along with two others currently at large, are active members of the Argentine Communist Party.

The first arrests took place last Sunday, 17 July, in Escobar, when members of the police force stopped a car in which three Chilean citizens carrying weapons and forged identity cards were riding.

After further investigation, police arrested four more persons, two Argentines and two Chileans. They were placed at the disposal of Judge Piotti.

According to information received from Santiago, the Chilean military prosecutor will request the extradition of the arrested leftists.

Judge on Extradition

PY2307192088 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1524 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 23 Jul (NA)—The Chilean courts have taken the first step toward requesting the extradition of the three Chilean citizens who were arrested in Escobar, Buenos Aires Province, 6 days ago. Those persons are accused of kidnapping a Chilean military officer.

This was confirmed last night by San Isidro Federal Judge Alberto Piotti who has said that the three Chilean citizens are being held on charges of "illegal possession of weapons, ammunition, and explosives and the forging of official documents and ideological coercion."

Speaking to Radio Continental, Judge Piotti stated that the Chilean courts have sent him a "request for preventive arrest" against the three Chileans, adding that this is usually the first step toward requesting the extradition of someone under arrest.

He said, however, that before extradition can be granted, the three Chileans must stand trial in Argentina for the crimes that they have been charged with here. Because of this, Judge Piotti expressed his opinion that the extradition of the Chileans will "take a very long time."

He went on to say that "it is possible" that "some part of the kidnapping" of which the Chilean courts are accusing them "has been carried out in Argentina, so it will be a matter of determining whether the Argentine courts have to take action or not."

Piotti stressed that "for the time being, however, it is much too early to discuss these legal proceedings."

Federal Police Break Drug Trafficking Ring

PY2207233388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1604 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Jul (NA)—Today, an official federal police communique reported that following investigations which concluded with the detention of seven people, including a minor, and the seizure of an undetermined quantity of drugs, weapons, and foreign currency, federal police have broken up a cocaine trafficking ring that was operating in Buenos Aires and the surrounding areas.

Four cars: a Ford, Peugeot, Taunus, and Renault—all of them new models—were also seized. After the police operation, it was discovered that one of the cars was stolen.

The detainees have been identified as Roberto Soria, 40; Maria Acuna, 38; Ruben Fernandez, 30; Jose Casas, 45; Luis Papano, 35; Elsa Araoz, 43. Pursuant to current legal provisions, no information has been supplied concerning the minor arrested.

In addition to the cars and 0.6 kg of cocaine, the items seized include blank identification cards, deeds on cars, forged seals of the car property registry office, more than $50,200; 220,000 bolivares; and 2,900 australes.

Other items seized include 10 Rolex watches (president model and others); fine jewelry worth over 90,000 australes; and weapons, including ammunition used by the military and civilians, a 45-caliber pistol, and 2 revolvers: one a 38 caliber, the other a 32 caliber.

The federal police communique adds that "several members of the ring have long police records and one of them escaped from the Olmos penitentiary where he was serving a long sentence."

Trial Judge Maria Sevini de Cubria, from the secretariat headed by Dr Lodeiro, is hearing the case.

Bolivia

World Bank Approves Bolivian Economic Program

PY2307200788 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1645 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] The World Bank has approved the economic program submitted by the Bolivian Government. This program contains the investment and economic growth estimates until 1991. The approval of this program by the World Bank will give Bolivia the key to foreign credits.

Finance Minister Juan Cariaga stated:

[Begin recording] This approval is the beginning of several important economic events because it opens the doors of the multilateral and (?bilateral) organizations such as the IMF, which is one of the most important ones. It also paves the way for public investment, economic development and growth. [end recording]

Cariaga has also announced that next week the IMF will approve two new loans to Bolivia worth more than $100 million.

Foreign Minister on Suarez Extradition

PY2307142088 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish
0441 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Excerpts] La Paz, 22 Jul (TELAM-EFE)—Today Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal stated that according to Bolivian laws, the extradition of Roberto Suarez Gomez, the so-called "Cocaine King," to the United States is not feasible. [passage omitted]

Bedregal said that the "Cocaine King" must serve a 12-year prison sentence in Bolivia for drug trafficking. He went on to explain that there are extradition agreements with the United States, but they do not apply in Suarez' case.

Bedregal said that in 1900, Bolivia and the United States signed the first extradition agreement when the famous U.S. criminal "Butch Cassidy" sought shelter in Bolivia.

The foreign minister added that the extradition agreement was updated and expanded last year and that in keeping with this agreement, the drug traffickers arrested in Bolivia may be sent to the United States if the government deems it appropriate. "However, since Roberto Suarez has been tried and sentenced in Beni, the judge who sentenced him has the right to demand compliance with this sentence," Bedregal stated.

He said that the Bolivian Government has not yet received a formal extradition request from the U.S. Government. If the extradition request does arrive, it will have to be submitted to the Supreme Court and follow the appropriate procedures, Bedregal said. [passage omitted]

Suarez Responds to Press

PY2207180688 La Paz Radio Fides in Spanish
1645 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Roberto Suarez Gomez was shown to the press at the antidrug directorate of the Bolivian police this morning. He was dressed in a green jacket, apparently the type worn by army personnel, white trousers, and brown shoes. He was smiling and looked optimistic. In response to a question he said: I am fine, do not worry, adding that his family is with (?God). Information Minister Herman Antelo asked journalists not to question Suarez because his status is that of a special prisoner, adding that as soon as he is transferred to the penitentiary he will be able to answer questions. [passage omitted]

Antelo said that there is no extradition for Roberto Suarez [as heard] and that, consequently, he will have to serve his sentence in Bolivia, (?where he is involved in two trials).

The minister said that from now on, the antidrug fight in which the government is engaged will be more (?direct).

[Begin Antelo recording] The decision will be made by the appropriate authorities. I said that after being held here for security reasons for as short a time as possible, Suarez will be transferred to the penitentiary. We, however, will not decide which penitentiary he will go. Everything having to do with drug trafficking is being investigated. Whoever is found to be involved will be brought to the Bolivian courts. [end recording]

Deputy Says No Bail

PY2207131188 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Deputy Benjamin Miguel, a constitutional law specialist, has told Panamericana that the police should immediately place Roberto Suarez Gomez at the disposal of the court that sentenced him, so that the judge may send him to jail to serve his 15-year sentence. Miguel added that any attempt to hold Suarez at police headquarters involves illegal arrest, because he must be placed at the disposal of the regular courts.

Asked about a possible request for extradition from the U.S. courts, Miguel said:

[Begin Miguel recording] The new law on coca and controlled substances says in connection with drug trafficking crimes that extradition requests affecting arrested or condemned traffickers will be dealt with based on the penal code. The penal code states that any decision on extradition requests will be made in agreement with existing international accords on the subject. There is an accord, signed in 1932 in Montevideo, that should be respected.

The decision on whether the request for extradition applies will depend on the reports submitted by the judge, the Beni Supreme Court, and on the terms of the international accord. [end recording]

Miguel said that Suarez cannot appeal the court decision because the decision has already been implemented, adding that under no circumstances can Suarez be released on bail.

Reaction To Arrest

PY2207145988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0255 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Excerpts] La Paz, 21 Jul (EFE)—Roberto Suarez Gomez, the Bolivian "Cocaine King," who was recently arrested by Bolivian antinarcotics forces, is also a drug addict, according to unofficial sources mentioned by La Paz radio and television media. [passage omitted]

The reactions to the arrest of the cocaine kingpin stressed the work carried out by the Special Antinarcotics Force which will celebrate tomorrow its 1st anniversary with the arrest of the most sought after drug trafficker.

Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran said that Bolivian President Victor Paz Estenssoro was happy to hear the news of Suarez Gomez' arrest. He praised the antidrug work carried out by his government.

Deputy Alvaro Perez del Castillo, president of the Chamber of Deputies Constitution and Justice Committee, said that Suarez must first have a trial for the charges raised by the Bolivian law against him, and then possibly be extradited to the United States, "as long as this country requires it."

In turn, MNR Deputy Edwin Rodriguez said that "this demonstrates that the struggle against drug trafficking is serious."

Deputy Eusebio Gironda, from the Movement of the Revolutionary Left, said that the Bolivian courts must now make certain that Suarez serves his pending sentences. [passage omitted]

COB Executive Secretary Simon Reyes said that "at last the government has decided to arrest Roberto Suarez." He expressed pessimism, however, over the effects this arrest could have in future operations against drug trafficking.

Yesterday Suarez Gomez announced in the newspaper EL DIA of Santa Cruz, east of La Paz, that he would give in to the authorities "as soon as there is a reliable government" and when law "acts with justice." He also denounced that the antinarcotics forces had kidnapped his wife, two children, and some employees to "pressure him." [passage omitted]

Brazil

Government To Resort to GATT on U.S. Sanctions

PY2507010788 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jul 88 p 55

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday presidential spokesman Carlos Henrique dos Santos confirmed that the Brazilian Government will make a presentation before the GATT against the U.S. decision to impose commercial sanctions on Brazilian products on the grounds that Brazil does not respect the patents on pharmaceutical products.

The Foreign Minister will submit the presentation this week. Before the sanctions are actually imposed, the Brazilian Government will make the presentation "to demand fair compensation for any losses that it may sustain," an official government note stated.

In addition to the presentation before GATT, the Brazilian Government may impose surcharges on several U.S. products if the U.S. sanctions are actually applied and if Brazilian exporters are harmed. Planalto Palace is concerned that the U.S. decision can affect the Brazilian balance of trade.

The note, which is signed by President Jose Sarney, and which Itamaraty released on Friday, has already been delivered to the U.S. Government. The note charges that President Ronald Reagan "has considered the particular interests of the U.S. pharmaceutical industry to the

detriment of the more general interests of the relations between the two countries, and to the detriment of the legitimate objectives of the Brazilian industrial policy."

Data Processing Sector [subhead]

This is not the first U.S. Government threat to impose commercial sanctions on Brazilian products. At the end of 1987, President Reagan made a speech in which he charged that the Brazilian Government had imposed protectionist measures on the data processing sector. The crisis between the two countries lasted until the approval in May of a law regulating commercialization of computer programs. Even after Congress approved the regulations of the law, the U.S. Government still objected to some points that that standarized the import of computer programs.

Through the official note, the Brazilian Government expressed its concern over the $200-million figure that the U.S. Government has set as the total amount to be affected by the U.S. commercial sanctions.

The main point that Planalto Palace has raised in criticizing the U.S. decision is that in 1987 foreign companies accounted for 85 percent of pharmaceutical industry sales in Brazil, and that 35 percent of sales were by U.S. companies.

Sodre on U.S. Action

PY2407233588 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Jul 88 p A-41

[By the Rio de Janeiro Agency and a Washington-based correspondent]

[Excerpt] According to Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre, the reprisals announced by the United States against Brazil's policy that protects patents could hurt exports to the United States. Regarding the type of action that Brazil will take, Sodre stated: "We are not going to wait for the USTR (United States Trade Representative) [four previous words given in English] to publish the list. We are immediately going to start negotiations with the United States."

Sodre believes that the announcement came at an inappropriate time because the national Congress is debating about freeing Brazil's trade with the United States and other nations. The minister also believes that the measure has been adopted with a view to the U.S. elections, in order to support the election of George Bush. The measure is also aimed at altering the measures "of the Constituent Assembly that are exaggeratedly nationalistic."

According to Sodre, the negotiations will begin with the policy on protecting patents. In this respect there is a draft bill that deals with patent protection which President Jose Sarney is going to submit to Congress. "It is an existing, concrete result that could be upset due to the climate created by the threat of reprisals," Sodre stressed. Resorting to the GATT can only occur after the reprisals have been implemented. Sodre also stressed that "reprisals by Brazil against U.S. imports are currently under study." [passage omitted]

Accord With U.S. Expected 'Before September'

PY2507003588 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 24 Jul 88 p 36

[Text] Brasilia—A high-ranking Itamaraty source has predicted that Brazil and the United States will reach an accord before September, when the deadline for the U.S. Government decision's on the possible commercial sanctions against Brazil—in the wake of Brazil's disregard for U.S. medical patents—will expire. The source based his estimate on two factors: An accord has been reached in the case of the computer market, which was much more important because of the size of the sector and its emotional implications; furthermore, the U.S. Government is not directly involved in the conflict.

The publication in the Federal Register [preceding two words in English] (which is the U.S. official gazette) of the list of products that can be affected by the sanctions, marks the beginning of a period of public hearings, which all interested parties can attend. The results of this process will be submitted by the USTR [United States Trade Representative], which is the White House commercial office, to the U.S. Government possibly with a recommendation to adopt the sanctions. The final decision, however, must be made by President Ronald Reagan. The same procedure was followed in the case of the computer market, and the sanctions were not adopted.

Itamaraty believes it will be easier to reach an accord in the case of the patents. The Brazilian Government was ready for the announcement of the sanctions. The official answer has been ready since Wednesday, although it was made public only after the official announcement was made on Friday afternoon. Based on information received from the United States, Itamaraty knew that the U.S. Government would make this decision to meet the demands of one of the most influential U.S. associations, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association. But, for several reasons, the U.S. Government would not have done it if it could have been avoided. Among the reasons is the visit to Brazil on 4 August by Secretary of State George Shultz, which could encounter an atmosphere of hostility. Another reason is to avoid hindering the Brazilian effort to normalize its relations with the international financial community.

The Brazilian Government has still other reasons to be confident: Switzerland and Japan adopted pharmaceutical patents less than 20 years ago, and the U.S. law cannot overrule international law, which in this case favors Brazil. If no accord is reached, the sanctions will affect one-seventh of the announced $200 million, that is, about $30 million.

Aeronautics Minister on Elections, Candidates

PY2207120188 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Jul 88 p 6

[Text] Brasilia—Yesterday Aeronautics Minister Octavio Moreira Lima said that members of the Armed Forces and civilians have the same right to contest the presidential election. Moreira Lima was referring to the recently announced candidacy of General Leonidas Pires Goncalves to the Presidency, but he made it clear that he was not specifically talking about the Army minister, whose candidacy was proposed by Deputy Joao Castelo (PFL of Maranhao State), and Joao Menezes (PFL of Parana State). He said he was talking "in general terms." Moreira Lima made these remarks at Brasilia Air Base after presiding over the anniversary commemorating Santos Dumont.

Moreira Lima recalled other episodes in Brazilian history when members of the Armed Forces contested the presidency. He mentioned the cases of Marshal Lott, Brigadier Eduardo Gomez, and General Juarez Tavora. Nonetheless, Moreira Lima stressed that contrary to what had happened in the past, the military will no longer interfere with elections. "The Armed Forces will remain on the sidelines of the process," he stressed.

The Aeronautics minister said he does not see any reason to endorse Sao Paulo Prefect Janio Quadros who argues that if a leftist party wins the election, the PT for instance, it would not be permitted to take power. Moreira Lima said he respects the former president's opinions but he disagrees with him: "If we are going to live in a democracy, all sectors of society, including the military, must respect the results of the ballot box."

The minister does not believe there will be chaos in the country if complimentary legislation regulating the municipal elections are not ready for the 15 November elections. He thinks the possibility for chaos is remote because these elections have been scheduled for some time, and that Electoral Courts are organized and structured. There would be a greater possibility of disorder if these were presidential elections "because everything has yet to be done."

Moreira Lima said that the possibility of the Constituent Assembly falling behind on its work because of the elections does not worry him. "That is not my problem," he said. Moreira Lima is more concerned about the 6-hour workday in enterprises like EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company]. "If the 6-hour shift is maintained (by the Constitution) we could have productivity problems within the company because some products will become more expensive than similar foreign products." (Companies operating 24-hours a day currently divide the day in three shifts. Four shifts will be necessary if the 6-hour workday is approved).

Government Unable To Continue Nuclear Programs

PY2207162288 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Jul 88 p 34

[Text] Brasilia—The interruption of the nuclear program was the main issue at the 3-hour meeting of the National Security Council yesterday. The general secretaries of the Finance, Planning, and Mines and Energy Ministries attended the meeting at Planalto Palace.

Government sources have reported that the main objective of Finance Secretary Paulo Cesar Ximenes and Planning Secretary Ricardo Santiago was to convince the members of the Council that the National Treasury has no funds to support NUCLEABRAS investments. The meeting was also attended by Mines and Energy Secretary Gui Vilela.

Controversial ICBM, Other Projects Viewed

PY2207220288 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Jul 88 p A-24

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Text] The Aeronautics Ministry's Space Activities Institute (IAE) has successfully tested two of the Brazilian space programs Satellite Launching Vehicle [VLS] systems.

These systems will allow Brazil to design its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM in military jargon). During the last quarter of 1987, civil and military IAE technicians tested the VLS rocket engine's thrust cutoff system [sistema de corte de empuxo] (switch- off control). Some 6 months ago, a test was performed on the rocket's mobile tube [tuberia movil] system. This system permits the jets to change direction by a chemical process in the engine, thus changing the VLS' course.

The two tests were performed at the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) testing facility in Sao Jose dos Campos (97 km from Sao Paulo). The facility is not located in Sao Jose but in the neighboring district of Jacarei, near the Santa Branca Dam, near a CTA industrial unit known as Vazadouro plant. The testing facility is an open air concrete block approximately 6 meters long. The equipment to be tested is placed on the lowest part of the approximately 70-cm high block. The mobile tube test, which lasted some 60 seconds, was not performed with a Sonda-4 rocket engine—this is the type of rocket that will take the VLS to space—but with a Sonda-2 rocket that the CTA developed in the early 1970's.

Hydraulic Actuator [subhead]

The thrust cutoff system is essential for the VLS to discontinue its ascending flight and take on a new course. In the case of a military operation, the system allows the rocket to hit a target located within range. The switching off of the rocket engine—in technical jargon, the thrust cutoff—is accomplished by lowering the pressure on the solid fuel combustion mechanism. This takes place when a computer

on the engine's equipment bay (which is also called the "electronic" bay) expels two specific scuttles [escotilhas] from the case that houses the engine.

The mobile tube system is also operated from the "electronic" bay. The orders given by a computer to modify the rocket's course are transmitted to a hydraulic mechanism—in technical jargon, a hydraulic actuator—which adjusts the tube system. This is how changes in direction are sent to the engine combustion jet (which has a temperature of approximately 3,000 degrees centigrade).

The VLS being developed by IAE has been designed for operation with mobile tubes in the engines of the second and third stages. The Sonda-4 engine of the second VLS stage is switched on after the four Sonda-4 engines of the first stage have given the initial driving force to the VLS, a period of about 55 seconds. The second stage operates during approximately the same time, and only after this period will the Sonda-4 engine of the third stage begin to operate. The third stage engine is a bit smaller than the usual size. The fourth stage engine is even smaller.

Solomonic Attitude [subhead]

IAE specialists fear that contracting PRC technicians to launch the first two Brazilian satellites will drastically reduce funds the government has earmarked for the Sonda-4 and the VLS. Approximately 2 months ago, after FOLHA reported the failure of the last launching of a Sonda-4 in October 1987, management of the National Institute of Space Research (INPE), which is run by the Ministry of Science and Technology, began to openly state that the government should rent a foreign rocket to prevent excessive delays in the timetable of the launching of the first Brazilian scientific satellite, which is being built by the INPE. In view of complaints from military authorities from the Aeronautics Ministry and the Armed Forces staff, the government adopted a Solomonic attitude to meet both demands: It authorized an accord with the PRC, and assured the military that neither the Sonda-4 nor the VLS projects would be discontinued. The VLS is designed to carry a payload of up to 180 kg. The first national satellite will weigh 150 kg. An ICBM carrying a non-nuclear warhead carries a powerful explosive that weighs approximately 5 times as much.

Separation System Mechanism Under Study

PY2207221888 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Jul 88 p A-24

[By RL]

[Excerpt] The Space Activities Institute (IAE) of the Aerospace Technology Center (CTA) of Sao Jose dos Campos is studying the possibility of duplicating the mechanism that activates the separation system of the two stages of the Sonda-4 rocket. A failure in that mechanism, which is known in IAE jargon as acceleration contact [acelerocontato], prevented the separation of the first stage of the Sonda-4 rocket in a launch from the Barreira do Inferno base about 8 months go. This is why that launch failed.

When the first stage engine of the Sonda-4 burns all of its six tons of solid fuel (in approximately 55 seconds) the rocket slows down. The acceleration contact reacts to the decreased speed and activates the system that separates the two stages. The two stages of the Sonda-4 are joined by a system of four special bolts which have small explosive devices. The loss of velocity is noted by the acceleration contact system which passes the information to a group of batteries that produce a spark capable of exploding the bolts that, in turn, free the first stage from the rest of the rocket.

After the launch failure last October, the Aeronautics Ministry obtained from the United States a bolt with more advanced technology which operates with two self-destruct systems. However, IAE technicians do not believe that the problem is in the bolts used by the Brazilian space program, but in the equipment that failed to order the separation of the two stages. Therefore, Brazilian technicians will possibly begin working with two mechanisms to activate the stage separation system. This problem, which occurred about 2 years ago during the launch, of the R-1, scaled-down a version of the Satellite Launching Vehicle [VLS] (the Brazilian vehicles to be put in space by the Sonda-4), is not of primary importance to the IAE. [passage omitted]

Chile

Pinochet To Announce New Economic Measures

PY2207034988 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 21 Jul 88

[Text] In order to reduce political opposition during the plebiscite campaign, the Pinochet government will unveil a package of economic measures on 11 September, according to the director of the Economic and Financial Survey, Enrique Davila. Davila analyzed this year's economic situation, a situation which he said is encouraging.

Other experts noted that the cost of the new package might be near $40 million, and that the announcement would be made by General Augusto Pinochet himself. Some of the measures that might be considered are mortgage debt renegotiation; a special assistance bonus for civil servants and PEM [Minimum Employment Plan], POJH [Household Heads Employment Program], and PIMO [Intensive Employment Program] workers, and retirees; and some form of debt forgiveness for students burdened with university attendance credits, and debtors who have renegotiated loans with the Central Bank in 1983.

Enrique Davila emphasized that the readjustments that will benefit those people will be possible due to relief in foreign obligations that came Pinochet's way in this decisive year. He added that the economic package will be a determinant in convincing a large sector of potential undecided voters.

The director of the Economic and Financial Survey stressed that the government does not want to run the risk of an inflationary escalation in the months leading to the plebiscite. The government has already reduced the value added tax, and it might revaluate the Chilean peso if the situation deteriorates, even if it has to confront the executives of the export sector.

It has leaked that the government has $290 million in savings to finance the plebiscite, and that the cost of the new populist measures will only be $40 million.

General Matthei on Plebiscite Date, Retirement
PY2207183488 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Today Air Force Commander General Fernando Matthei confirmed that the date for naming the presidential candidate for the plebiscite has been established.

Asked if the commanders of the Armed Forces and the director of Carabineros held a meeting, Gen Matthei said that they did.

[Begin recording] [Matthei] Yes, it is true, but I am not going to disclose the date. The date has been set.

[Unidentified reporter] [words indistinct] in the official gazette?

[Matthei] I presume that it will be published in the next few days.

[Reporter] What influence are the polls going to have on the appointment of the candidate by the Armed Forces commanders?

[Matthei] I can only speak for myself. I already have an idea, but I am always willing to evaluate everything again because one should be aware of the situation before resolving anything. We in the military are trained to act that way. [end recording]

Gen Matthei also explained that if the yes-vote wins, he will retire from the Air Force, but he added that you cannot bail out of a plane when there are problems with the landing gear.

[Begin recording] [Matthei] Yes, as Admiral Merino said, and as I said a long time ago, if the situation develops the way we are predicting, and the yes-vote wins, then I will retire in March of next year.

[Reporter] You said that you will retire if yes-vote wins; what will happen if the no-vote wins?

[Matthei] Logically, in that case we will have to remain in our posts as established by the Constitution for 1 more year. In a difficult situation I am not going to bail out. In this case I would have greater reason to be at my post to do my best to insure that there will be a transition period in the country—a calm transition toward democracy—which is the most important thing to us. As a pilot I am accustomed to the idea of landing. You cannot think of flying permanently, because you can run out of fuel before getting to your destination. I am always concerned about arriving at my destination safely with the airplane, with all the people on board. I want to fulfill my mission well and make a soft landing. After a soft landing one can say that the mission has been accomplished. [end recording]

Gen Matthei made these comments after a ceremony celebrating his 10th year as commander of the Chilean Air Force.

Exporters Comment on Possible U.S. Retaliation
PY2307120888 Santiago Television Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 0030 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] The so-called war over pharmaceutical patent rights could cause Chilean exporters to loose between $90 and $300 million.

Robert Baun, executive manager of the Chilean Exporters Association, has said that the United States could seriously retaliate against Chilean fruit exports as a consequence of the Chilean refusal to establish patent rights for pharmaceutical products.

[Begin Baun recording] Well, they are supposed to evaluate how much money they have lost either in historic or potential terms. They could consequently impose sanctions on us that could cause us losses from $90 to $300 million. They could seriously harm our exporting activity. [end recording]

Baun said that the Chilean Exporters Association fully agrees with the government decision not to adopt measures that could harm the domestic consumer, especially in the field of medicines.

However, he stated that the government could authorize some kind of patent rights that would hardly affect the market in the short- and mid-term.

A Catholic University study states that, in the worst case, a patent rights system could cost the pharmaceutical industry from $3 to $5 million in a market that moves $130 million annually.

Two More Alleged 'Terrorists' Arrested

PY2207041688 Santiago Television Nacional in Spanish 0030 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Two more Chileans connected with extremist activity have been arrested in Argentina. Our country has already requested, through INTERPOL, that they be kept in preventive imprisonment.

Four more people, two of them Chileans, have been arrested in Argentina in connection with the previous arrest of three extremist suspects of Chilean nationality. This has become one of the most important events in the investigation into serious terrorist crimes. The first three Chileans were arrested by the Argentine police this past Sunday while traveling in a stolen car, carrying weapons and subversive material. These people have been identified as Hector Palma Nunez, Rolando Escobar Ibanez, and Ivan Karjevic Laura.

Ad hoc Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva has affirmed that at least one of the three subjects is suspected in the attempt on the life of President Augusto Pinochet and the illegal smuggling of weapons into the country. As for the two new people arrested in Argentina, it was stated that they are also involved in those activities.

Identities of Three Released

PY2207190888 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Today Military Prosecutor Fernando Torres Silva confirmed that the three Chilean terrorists arrested in Argentina have been correctly identified, and that one of them was involved [words indistinct].

Torres Silva made this comment after meeting for the second time with Investigative Police Chief General Fernando Paredes. Torres said that he has information confirming the identities of the three Chilean subversives arrested in Escobar, about 50 km from Buenos Aires. He said that they are Rolando Ibanez, Hector Luis Palma Nunez, and (Ivan Kariovich Labra), who at the time of their arrest were carrying arms and ammunition in their automobile. He did not say in which of the cases one of the subversives was involved—whether it was the arsenal case, or the kidnapping of Colonel Carreno.

Torres indicated that the real importance of these people will be clearly seen at the end of the investigation, which can only be concluded after the arrested are brought here. He also said that the Chilean Government has requested information on this case from the Argentine Government, and that it will request extradition. He added that the government is working with INTERPOL on this case.

Asked if these terrorists can be considered involved in political crimes, Torres Silva said that the kidnapping of an Army commander and the attack on a president cannot be considered political crimes. Asked about the two other Chileans arrested in Argentina, Torres said that there is only preliminary information about them, and that he is working on it.

Colombia

Preparations for National Dialogue Under Way

Gomez Confirms Attendance

PA2407021488 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Preparations for the national dialogue are being made with the full support of all political sectors. Differences of opinion in this regard deal more with the form and not the content of the national dialogue, which is being convoked as a result of Alvaro Gomez Hurtado's release. [passage omitted]

Referring to the dialogue, Dr Alvaro Gomez Hurtado confirmed that he will attend the national dialogue and that preparations will begin next week. No one knows yet whether the government will attend or not.

Government Presence Urged

PA2207234788 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Today the Liberal Party and the Patriotic Union [UP] demanded that the government participate in next week's national dialogue. The Liberal Party, through its delegate, Senator Edmundo Lopez Gomez, noted that one of the proposals to be presented at the 29 July summit will be a call for a plebiscite to approve constitutional reforms. In this regard, Lopez Gomez said:

[Begin recording] My party's Board of Directors has above all requested that I propose the call for a plebiscite as the principal topic of discussion for the 29 July meeting. This conforms with the president's initiative in March of this year. I think this is the fastest and most viable way of approving the reforms on reasonable terms. I do not mean to undermine the Congress, but it takes the Congress 2 years to approve a reform, and the national emergency is so great that that much time would be far too long. I think this can be done in a brief time, and there is no other faster way than a plebiscite. [end recording] [passage omitted]

In the meantime, the UP noted that the government must participate in the dialogue directly and added that it will propose constitutional reforms through a plebiscite and will report the dirty war against the UP, a party that has lost approximately 800 members, who have been murdered in less than 3 years.

[Begin UP member recording] The UP will take several proposals to the preparatory committee. First of all, it will propose the agenda. We think there are two topics that must be debated. First, the end of the dirty war, of

the murders, of the dreadful massacres, and the numerous disappearances in Colombia. The end of this dirty war is an indispensable condition for the dialogue to advance and conclude positively. Second, the UP will propose a plebiscite to make major reforms to the Colombian Constitution. We will also propose to the preparatory committee that it meet with President Barco to encourage the government to name its representatives so that they will attend the 29 July dialogue. The government's participation is an indispensable factor for the development of the dialogue and for the dialogue to be a viable one. The UP also believes that the government should make a clear statement on the guarantees it will grant for this meeting, especially in regard to the attendance of representatives of the armed insurgent groups. The guerrilla movement's presence is necessary in finding a political solution to Colombia's domestic conflict. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Government To Participate

PA2407042588 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2231 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 22 Jul (REUTER)—Today the Colombian Government agreed to participate in a national pacification dialogue. The first contact was made yesterday after M-19 released former presidential candidate Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, who was held captive for 50 days.

President Virgilio Barco said in a communique that the ruling Liberal Party, PL, is willing to attend the preliminary national dialogue meeting.

Yesterday Gomez Hurtado, who was kidnapped in Bogota on 29 May and released in this same city on Wednesday, exhorted the government to participate in the dialogue to pacify the country, which has been ravaged by violence unleashed by guerrillas for 3 decades.

The release of the leader, who twice has been a presidential candidate for the opposition Social Conservative Party, PSC, was agreed upon by M-19 and a nongovernment delegation in Panama City last week. M-19 set a "national salvation summit meeting" with the participation of all forces of the country as a condition to release Gomez Hurtado.

The delegation, which is composed of representatives of the political parties, the Catholic Church, businessmen, workers, and the rebels, had agreed to begin preparing the dialogue as soon as M-19 released the 69-year-old politician.

The government declined to participate in the talks to release Gomez Hurtado saying a pacification dialogue could not be held under "pressure or blackmail." However, the government said it will attend the preliminary meeting scheduled to be held at the nuncio's office in Bogota on 29 July.

The official communique said: "The ruling government party will attend the sessions, provided they conform to the established conditions," including the absence of intimidation, which can lead to the reconciliation of the Colombian people. The communique adds that the dialogue will prove fruitful provided it is "sincere, serious, and realistic." The PL, which did not participate in the first contacts with the rebels to have Gomez Hurtado released, selected Senator Edmundo Lopez Gomez as representative.

However, political leaders said Lopez is an indirect representative because he is not an executive branch member. After the government communique was announced, PSC President Rodrigo Marin Bernal said the government should participate in the talks directly.

The meeting to prepare the national dialogue agenda will be organized by Msgr Dario Castrellon, president of the Latin American Episcopal Conference, who attended the Panama City meeting on a personal basis.

The national dialogue might not be held if there are guerrillas present at the 29 July meeting

Armed Forces spokesmen said the guerrillas who had court cases pending would be arrested and later tried if they showed up in Bogota. [passage omitted]

Barco Communique

PA2407043988 Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 22 Jul 88 p 9-A

[Text] Last night President Virgilio Barco Vargas issued a communique reiterating that his government backs the national dialogue as long as no intimidation takes place and the dialogue is carried out within the framework of the law.

The declaration states:

The government reiterates to the nation that a dialogue untouched by intimidation actions, a dialogue aimed at the reconciliation of all Colombians, a dialogue that will permit a rapid improvement of our democracy and social justice is important.

For this dialogue to be fruitful, it must be sincere, serious, and realistic. It must also be inspired by the best kind of patriotism and by the need to support the reforms that the government has proposed and that the people have been vehemently demanding for years.

The governing party will participate in the meetings, which will take place within the framework described here. The national government, which has the mandate to make changes permitted by the Constitution and the law, is best disposed to consider proposals and to make proposals aimed at securing these noble objectives.

The dialogue between the political and social forces must take place within the framework of strict respect for the existing institutions. The participants in the dialogue

have the responsibility of promoting the noble task of seeking a renovation and a transformation capable of consolidating our goal to create a new, pluralistic, just, and tolerant Colombia that respects all human, political, social, and economic rights.

Virgilio Barco

13 Guerrillas Killed in Various Clashes

PA2307022688 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Today nine M-19 guerrillas were killed in combat in an area bordering Cauca and Tolima Departments. In addition, 4 FARC guerrillas were killed in clashes with the Army in Boyaca, which means a total of 13 guerrillas were killed today in various actions throughout the country.

Rebel Suspect, 11 Others Die in Barrancabermeja

PA2207170788 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Report by Sonia Solano]

[Text] Violence has not stopped near our oil capital, Barrancabermeja. In the latest case, 11 people were murdered—9 adults and 2 children—in La Punta, (Dearima) Corregimiento, El Carmen municipality. They were shot by unidentified people using rifles. Most of the victims were shot in the head. The attackers also completely destroyed the house the victims were in. Four people belonged to one family. According to the (?surviving) [2-second break in reception] husband, they had received threats.

A police patrol was attacked by a motorcyclist who was stopped for a routine check. A police officer was injured, and the motorcyclist, a suspected guerrilla, was killed. During the operation one Magnum revolver, one Uzi submachinegun, and several rounds of ammunition were seized.

Army Kills 293 Rebels in 1st 6 Months of 1988

PA2407141888 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] The Defense Ministry warned today that the rebels' violent actions have increased and added that the FARC is still the main threat to the country despite the existing partial truce agreement signed with the previous government. The Defense Ministry also said that during the first 6 months of 1988, 293 guerrillas have died in 198 clashes.

ELN Destroys Stretch of Oil Pipeline in Arauca

PA2507033888 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2020 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 24 Jul (EFE)—Today an attack on Colombia's main oil pipeline seriously contaminated the rivers in the Arauca region near the Venezuelan border. This is the 50th attack this year against the oil pipeline by the National Liberation Army (ELN) led by Manuel Perez, a Spanish priest.

According to the Arauca region authorities, a dynamite charge was set off at km 90 of the pipeline, near the town of Saravena. The explosion caused thousands of barrels of crude to spill into the area's rivers. These rivers are part of the Orinoco River basin, which flows into Venezuela.

The authorities have closed down operations of four oil pipelines in the region affected by this spill.

Since the beginning of the year, Colombia has lost more than $200 million as a result of rebel attacks that have caused spills and have closed down operations. [passage omitted]

Peru

Interview of Shining Path's Guzman Published

PY2507013388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2336 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Jul (EFE)—Abimael Guzman, the founder, ideologist, and top leader of the Shining Path terrorist group, has broken his absolute silence of 10 years. He has granted an interview to the Lima newspaper EL DIARIO, which is considered by official sources to be that group's mouthpiece.

Today EL DIARIO dedicates its entire 48-page issue to the interview with the former university professor. The publisher and the chief editor of the newspaper conducted the interview between 15 and 16 July somewhere in the Peruvian Andes.

Abimael Guzman, who is called President Gonzalo by his followers, went underground in 1978, 2 years before Shining Path began its violent actions in Peru in May 1980. Since that time terrorism and counterterrorist actions have resulted in more than 12,000 deaths.

According to the interviewers, Shining Path's number one is currently "healthy and strong," thus refuting many reports that indicated Guzman was suffering from a serious illness, that he had died, or that he had gone abroad.

The top Shining Path leader reaffirms that the organization bases its ideology on Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, and he indicates that the congress of the Communist Party of Peru decided that "the president himself" should grant an interview to the press.

During the interview, Guzman speaks about his country's politics and politicians, on the new type of evangelism that has been proposed by Pope John Paul II, about the pope's visits to Peru, and about international politics.

The Shining Path leader indicates that the new type of evangelism has to do with the ecclesiastical leadership, "that old theocracy" that is seeking to "adapt to the new situation" to "survive," and that Pope John Paul visited Peru two times "to support Alan Garcia in his fight against the people's war."

He expresses his admiration for the principles established by Mao Zedong, and he states that Shining Path's economic support is provided by the masses, by the poverty-ridden campesino, "who will take a crumb from his mouth in order to give it to us," and by the proletariat and intellectuals.

Guzman also indicates that "regarding violence, we begin with the principle established by Mao Zedong: Violence is a universal law, without exception."

He also stresses his organization's decision to boycott the 1990 general elections in Peru, and "if possible to stop them."

Finally, Guzman denies the possibility of a dialogue with the government, "because the only thing it seeks is to undermine the people's war."

Garcia Says Morote Acquittal 'Scandal'

PY2407225388 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2024 GMT 23 Jul 88

[By Enrique Valls]

[Excerpt] Lima, 23 Jul (EFE)—The acquittal of Osman Morote, the "number two" of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla group, which has shocked Peruvian politicians and citizens alike, will apparently lead to the adoption of stronger laws against terrorism.

President Alan Garcia, with the full force of his post, has severely criticized the judges of the Lima Second Correctional Court. He said the acquittal is a "scandal."

Garcia added that there are judges who have no courage and who abuse legal loopholes in order "to not punish terrorists."

"There are judges who do not deserve to be judges, because judges must be honest and courageous to impose punishment for murder and other crimes," Garcia stated.

In response to a similar request made by Interior Minister Vice Admiral Juan Soria, retired, President Garcia has asked for clearer and stronger laws against terrorism.

These laws could be discussed and approved at the first regular session of Congress, which will begin next week and last until December 1988.

Morote's acquittal on 20 July represents a "national and international scandal," President Garcia stated. Morote, however, remains in custody because there are several cases pending against him in other courts.

Nevertheless, Prime Minister Armando Villanueva del Campo has stressed the need for stronger laws against terrorist violence, because "tough laws are fair laws," he said.

If the laws and the penal code do not punish a new crime in the country, another law must emerge to correct this situation, added Villanueva, an influential and long-time leader of the ruling APRA party.

This time, however, there has been no specific request for the reestablishment of the death penalty, which has been traditionally requested whenever a policeman or soldier was killed by the Shining Path, which began its campaign of death and destruction in 1980.

The death penalty was banned from the Constitution in 1979, except for high treason during wartime. [passage omitted]

'Perverse' Economic 'Bondage'

PY2207171488 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jul 88

["Excerpts" of speech by President Alan Garcia at the opening of the first Encounter for Latin American Unity at the Tupac Amaru Hall in Government House on 21 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] I have always been concerned about the different major tasks of each of our organizations, and I have always asked myself if it would ever be possible to get together to analyze the work we have been doing and to coordinate our efforts so as to better serve the great objective of Latin American integration. This integration, I must tell you, is the backbone of the Peruvian Government ideology, because we understand that the nationalism we support cannot be limited to the Peruvian borders. It is part of the vast, continental nationalism and unity that we must someday attain. [passage omitted]

The individual or national paths are closed in Latin America. We have exhausted our various formulas for development. Acting separately, we have been mere exporters of raw material to the developed world, we have developed centralized industries in our capital cities since 1930, and we have bound ourselves to the developed countries by incurring debts and by financing international economic transactions at the expense of our poverty.

We have been dominated by, and bound to the international economic centers in three ways since the beginning of this century. They can be clearly defined: first, our condition as raw material exporters; second, our attempt to industrialize our countries separately by constructing more than 20 national industries at a high

cost and with a minimum of mutual integration; and now, as a consequence of this mistaken process, our immense debt that mortgages the destinies of our people.

Our bonds with the developed countries no longer bring material compensation. To make clear a characteristic of our current bonds with developed countries, we must emphasize that in the past our bonds at least brought material compensation. When we were mere exporters of raw material, our countries industrialized, although the industrialization was centralized.

Currently, however, our bonds with the international centers of economic power are a perverse bondage that no longer yields productive material compensation.

Refinancing of Debt to USSR Reported

PY2207143088 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] The most oustanding aspects of the Peruvian foreign debt during the first 6 months of 1988 were that Peru has entirely refinanced its debt to the USSR, which amounted to $905 million, and that it has continued to suspend its negotiations with the creditor banks.

These facts are reported in the biannual document issued on the evolution of the Andean Group and other Latin America countries' foreign debt, which is released by the Cartagena Accord board.

The report points out that Peru will pay its debt to the USSR using exclusively nontraditional products and that the USSR Government has committed itself to buy an additional amount of goods which Peru will use to pay its debt.

Foreign Minister on Arms Shipment, Terrorism

PY2407005988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2348 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 23 Jul (EFE)—Today Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posadas said the cargo of arms carried by a Polish ship that was intercepted by Venezuela was legally purchased by Peru.

Gonzalez Posada said the government purchased the arms for the Peruvian police and added that the Armed Forces were aware of it. These are totally normal proceedings, the minister stressed.

Gonzalez Posada said the Foreign Ministry will launch an awareness campaign in other countries to explain the effects of terrorism on democracy and human rights in Peru.

Gonzalez Posada also received his Uruguayan counterpart, Luis Barrios Tassano, who is currently visiting the country to coordinate a meeting of the presidents of the two countries in Punta del Este, Uruguay, next October.

Gonzalez Posada said subversion in Peru has not arisen to fight a dictatorship, but is aimed at destroying the democratic system. He said terrorism systematically and ruthlessly violates human rights.

The minister added that subversives have systematically killed humble and poor people, peasants, policemen, and elected authorities, with the total surpassing 10,000 people.

Gonzalez Posada said terrorism has caused damage running into millions of dollars in our country, which desperately needs the money for other purposes. We have to use our scarce resources to repair what terrorism destroys, he emphasized.

During a news conference Gonzalez Posada regretted that 95 percent of those charged with terrorist activities are still waiting to be tried because of the slowness of court proceedings.

The minister called for the creation of special courts to hear terrorist cases, adding that those courts could move to the prisons to speed up the proceedings.

Villanueva Meets Costa Rican Foreign Minister

PY2307155688 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Yesterday in his office Peruvian Prime Minister Armando Villanueva met with Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal. Villanueva described Madrigal as a great friend of Peru and a disciple of Victor Raul Haya de la Torre.

Madrigal, who was accompanied by the Peruvian Ambassador to Costa Rica Enrique Rivero Weiler and by Peruvian Interior Minister Juan Soria Diaz, said that the Peruvian APRA party and the Costa Rican people have close ties, and he added that Haya de la Torre's ideological seeds sprouted first in Costa Rica. He said that Costa Rica had the first APRA congressmen in Latin America, before the APRA party had been founded in Peru.

Shining Path Kills 4 Soldiers, Wounds 9

PY2307201488 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0909 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Text] Ayacucho, 23 Jul (EFE)—The strike called by the Shining Path terrorist group has paralyzed Ayacucho since last Sunday. Meanwhile, soldiers and civilians are being killed in the "land of the dead," which is the meaning of the word Ayacucho.

Travelers arriving in this city have reported that four soldiers and two civilians have been killed by terrorists in the last 24 hours. These attacks have not been reported officially because only the military-political command of the emergency area releases communiques.

Severino Huaman, Apacheta's parish priest, was killed 30 km from Apacheta, while returning from San Miguel village. Huaman is the second priest killed in Ayacucho in the last few months.

Another terrorist attack took place yesterday when Shining Path members intercepted a provincial bus of the "Hidalgo" company traveling from Ayacucho to Huancavelica, made the passengers get out, and set the bus on fire. The terrorists said they attacked the bus in reprisal for "violating the armed strike" called by the Shining Path.

The car in which Professor Hugo Mata was traveling was dynamited as he was leaving Huanta. Mata died in the explosion. A truck carrying kerosene to Ayacucho from Castrovirreyna, in bordering Huancavelica Department, was also dynamited.

In La Mar Province, Ayacucho Department, the terrorists staged two ambushes: In the first ambush, in Chiquintirca, 120 Km from Ayacucho, Shining Path terrorists attacked a military patrol and killed a second lieutenant and one soldier and injured seven other military men. Apparently some terrorists were also killed, but it is difficult to determine the number of their casualties because the terrorists take away the bodies. In the second ambush, staged some 20 km from Quinua village, Shining Path members attacked a vehicle carrying soldiers and policemen, killing two soldiers and injuring two corporals.

Today Peruvian newspapers reported that six members of a Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) cell were arrested in Huancayo, in the central Peruvian mountain range.

Interior Minister Rear Admiral Juan Soria, retired, said that since 1980, when the Shining Path movement began its terrorist activities, terrorist and antiterrorist actions have killed 12,000 people, of whom 4,800 have been terrorists and 2,400 have been military and police personnel.

Peruvian, Colombian Drug Gangs Clash; 11 Die

PY2407221588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1925 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Jul (EFE)—Today in Lima it was reported that 11 people died and some 10 others were wounded during an armed clash between a Peruvian drug trafficking gang and a rival Colombian gang, in a jungle area of San Martin Department in Peru.

According to area police sources contacted by journalists, the gangs fought over a 580-kg shipment of cocaine base paste that was to be sent to Colombia. The traffickers used bazookas, grenades, flamethrowers, machineguns, and automatic rifles.

The clash took place early last Thursday near 2 de Mayo village, 58 km from Uchiza, one of the places that is considered a "red zone" of drug trafficking in the Peruvian jungle.

According to the sources, the clash began when the "Congo Gang," which is led by a Colombian trafficker known as "Luchin," and which is made up mostly of Colombians, attacked the Peruvian gang, which is led by Edgar del Castillo, aka "The Vampire," to seize the drug shipment.

The sources said the gangs had approximately 100 men each, and that Castillo, who was hit by machinegun fire in the lower part of his body, is among those who are seriously wounded. Six members of the Peruvian gang and five of the Colombian gang died.

The drug shipment, worth $1 million, was seized by the police, who destroyed two coca leaf maceration pits in the area and chemicals used for producing the drug.

Meanwhile, it was reported in Lima that during an antidrug operation in several Lima districts early on Saturday, the police captured 12 drug traffickers and seized 18 kg of cocaine basic paste and firearms.

Terrorists Disrupt Electric Power in Ayacucho

PY2507022988 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2053 GMT 24 Jul 88

[Text] Lima, 24 Jul (EFE)—Today in Lima it was reported that a total of seven power towers were knocked down and two vehicles dynamited in several places in Ayacucho Department by alleged members of the Shining Path terrorist group.

The towers were knocked down between the towns of Huanta and Ayacucho, the department's capital, and this affected the supply of electricity in several areas, especially in Huanta, according to town officials.

The reports indicate that the terrorists used hacksaws to cut through the foot of the towers to make them fall down, a change from previous occasions when dynamite was used to blow the towers down.

The attacks occurred on 18 July, and electricity was affected all through the week, with the supply being reestablished slowly.

The vehicles were dynamited in the downtown area of Ayacucho and at km 6 of the Via de los Libertadores Highway, which leads to this city.

In the first case it was a truck that was just about to leave with passengers for the towns of Chuntaca and Matara. The passengers were not harmed because the dynamite was placed in the driver's cabin, but he was not in it.

On the highway, a group of 20 terrorists dynamited and burned a truck coming from Lima loaded with 400 sacks of flour.

Uruguay

Debt Increases $1 Billion From 1984 to 1987

PY2207144688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0136 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] Montevideo, 21 Jul (EFE)—Today opposition politician Jorge Machinena reported that the Uruguayan foreign debt increased by $1 billion from December 1984 to June 1988, even though the country paid $965 million in interest during the last 2 years.

In 1987, Uruguay paid out $311 million, while exports that year totaled $1.189 billion.

These figures were given to Machinena by the Economy Ministry at Machinena's request for an official report on the national foreign debt.

The Uruguayan foreign debt in December 1987 amounted to $5.887 billion.

According to official reports, on 30 October 1987 the debt totaled $5.573 billion. Therefore, the debt increased by $314 million in 2 months.

Uruguayan monetary authorities have printed $1.547 million in treasury bonuses and treasury letters since June 1984. Sixty percent of these bonuses and letters were printed after the redemocratization of the country in March 1985.

The bonuses and letters are documents which the state uses to obtain individual domestic loans and which are paid back at predetermined dates with interest rates a little higher than those offered on the financial market.

According to the report, the $1 billion increase to the foreign debt, which was inherited from the military regime, must be added to the domestic debt.

Uruguay's debt per capita is one of the highest in the world because its population, according to the October 1985 census, totals only 2,830,564 people.

Venezuela

Ousted Haitian President Manigat Arrives

PA2307022988 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 23 Jul 88

[Report by Dianella Urdaneta]

[Text] Ousted Haitian President Leslie Manigat has arrived at Maiquetia International Airport, where he said his struggle will continue until democracy is restored in his country. The ousted president of Haiti said he was very pleased to be in Venezuela, because this is the country that has voiced the most vigorous rejection of the 9 June coup d'etat against his government by Armed Forces Commander Henri Namphy.

Former Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins, Congress Vice President Rodriguez Iturbe, and several other politicians were on hand at Maiquetia International Airport to welcome Manigat. The ousted president of Haiti talked with reporters and told them he was very pleased with the support from the Venezuelan Government and leaders and from the European countries he recently visited:

[Begin Manigat recording] I am once again in a democratic, friendly country. This is very significant for me, of course, because there is not only a personal but a political reason for my visit here. I am not a defeated, depressed man. My mandate has been interrupted by a military coup. However, life continues, and the struggle continues. We will not have a moment's rest until we restore democracy in Haiti. [end recording]

In concluding, the ousted Haitian president said he considers Venezuela his first choice for establishing residence because of the solidarity voiced by its leaders and the possibilities of establishing from here the struggle for democracy in his country.

Polish Ship With Weapons for Peru Detained

PA2507033588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0010 GMT 25 Jul 88

[Text] Caracas, 24 Jul (EFE)—Today police sources reported that a Polish ship with a shipment of weapons for Peru was stopped in Venezuelan territorial waters. The ship is being held at the Guaranao International Port in the northern Paraguana peninsula.

Directorate of Intelligence and Prevention Services officials ordered the "Kuznica" to the Guaranao International Port after they boarded the ship at the Cardon refinery. The ship was coming from Nigeria and had stopped at the refinery to refuel.

Unofficial reports indicated that the "Kuznica" had the following materiel in its hold: 200 automatic rifles, 6 tons of ammunition, silencers, and a large quantity of explosives. Venezuelan officials are studying the documents confiscated on board the ship to determine their legality.

According to reports in Caracas today, Peruvian Foreign Minister Luis Gonzalez Posada said the weapons confiscated in Venezuela were destined for the Peruvian police.

The Venezuelan Foreign Ministry is studying the case of the "Kuznica" to determine whether the weapons will be allowed to go to Peru or if Venezuela will confiscate the shipment.

Lusinchi Obtains 77-Percent Approval Rating

PA2207200088 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 1600 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Text] President Jaime Lusinchi's administration has achieved an unprecedented 77-percent popularity rating. Seventy-seven percent of the population believes that no other government would have achieved a better administration. These results were obtained by the Pronostico Co. in its latest nationwide public opinion poll.

On another topic, the poll indicates that the governors of Carabobo, [name indistinct], Sanchez Verdu of Miranda, and Antonio Aranguren of Anzoategui are the most outstanding governors in the democratic period.

With regard to the current political scene, the poll, which was published today by the newspapers EL UNIVERSAL and ULTIMAS NOTICIAS, indicates that Carlos Andres Perez [Democratic Action presidential candidate] obtained a 50-percent popularity rating, Eduardo Fernandez [COPEI presidential candidate] obtained 33 percent, and Teodoro Petkoff [Movement Toward Socialism presidential candidate] obtained 4.7 percent in a survey carried out in the Federal District.

Education Minister, Defense Official Sworn In

PA2207192988 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 22 Jul 88

[Report by Marta Salazar]

[Excerpts] At noon today President Jaime Lusinchi swore in Professor Laura Castillo de Gurfinkel as new education minister and Division General Arnoldo Jose Rodriguez as permanent secretary of the National Security and Defense Council.

The event took place in the Hall of Mirrors at Miraflores Palace. The president first addressed Laura Castillo de Gurfinkel, who promised to carry out all her duties. Division General Arnoldo Jose Rodriguez was then sworn in. He will be in charge of advising the government on national security and defense matters. [passage omitted]

President Lusinchi pointed out that as head of the National Security and Defense Council, Division General Arnoldo Rodriguez will provide valuable assistance to the executive branch, as did his predecessor, Victor Higuera Castellano, who retired. [passage omitted]